



Some patients wait in ambulance for an hour at hospital

# CONCERN OVER DELAYS AT A&E

Report by Luke Bartlett

**NEARLY 300 patients waited more than half an hour in ambulances outside Russells Hall Hospital during March, according to new figures.**

A total of 288 people had to wait more than 30 minutes in ambulances outside the Dudley hospital and 35 waited for more than one hour.

Council bosses say Dudley's NHS trust needs to work with West Midlands Ambulance Service and other partners to tackle the problem at the accident and emergency department.

The trust says it has faced a five per cent rise in the number of ambulance attendances compared to the same period last year but it has improved in recent months.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "The only way this can move forward is by all the hospitals, the ambulance service and other emergency services getting around a table and talking to each other."

"It needs more planning, more financing and more clear clinical leadership."

## Target

So far this year there have been more than 1,400 breaches of the NHS 30-minute ambulance handover target at the hospital. In January 691 patients waited for more than 30 minutes with the figure at 448 in February.

Trust bosses said they have seen progress and had 'outperformed' other trusts in the Black Country on patient handover performance.

Karen Kelly, chief operating officer at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We have seen progress in our handover times, which have significantly improved since December. At times we have outperformed other trusts in the Black Country."

"We have a plan in place to continue to reduce handover times further. We work closely with our colleagues at West Midlands Ambulance Service to make sure that patients who arrive by ambulance at A&E are assessed, treated and handed over as quickly and efficiently as possible."

"The pressure on our emergency services has been consistent throughout the last 12 months. The volume of ambulances were, at times, very challenging."

## MAY'S BEAUTIFUL ARRAY OF BLUEBELLS ON SHOW



Zac Brookes, aged 15, of Keeper's Cottage, admiring the bluebell woods ahead of this weekend's opening of the woods in aid of charities

A BLUEBELL wood near Stourbridge is opening to the public on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS).

The beautiful May array of flowers can be visited at Keeper's Cottage woods, on Greensforge Lane, at Stourton, by permission of Peter and Jenny Brookes.

This is the third year of opening the woods to the public and the Brookes' have raised more than £4,000 as part of the NGS scheme, which helps several charities and nationally has raised more than £50 million.

Over the past two years more than 1,200 nature lovers have visited Greensforge Lane to walk through the woods and enjoy tea and cakes sold from the Keeper's Cottage kitchen, all made by local people.

Mr Brookes said: "We have had a tremendous response from visitors over the past two years, with people travelling from as far as Leicestershire and Derbyshire to see the bluebells. But the majority of visitors are from the Black Country. We love people turning up to look at the bluebells in this quintessentially English setting."

Since 1927 the NGS has been inviting garden owners to open their exceptional gardens to the public for good causes, giving people unique access to some of Britain's most beautiful and memorable gardens.

With most bluebell woods now in private hands, it also offers a special opportunity to view one of the spring season's most spectacular treats.

More than 3,700 private gardens belong to the NGS scheme.

For further details see [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) website.

## COUNCIL

### Dog mess penalty doubles to £100

A NEW order which penalises dog owners who fail to pick up after their pets has come into force.

The new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) gives Dudley Council officers powers to give out fixed penalty notices for dog fouling.

The fines are up to £100 – double the previous £50.

The order also prohibits dogs in children's play areas, with similar punishment for owners flouting the regulations.

## FIRE

### Staff evacuated during store blaze

STAFF were evacuated from an Oldbury supermarket after a fire started in the storage area.

Fire crews from Oldbury and Smethwick attended the Co-op store, Tame Road, at around 4pm on Monday.

Five members of staff were evacuated from the store in Kingsway, after the fire is believed to have started in a storage room.

## TRAFFIC

### No stopping order to ease congestion

VEHICLES will be banned from stopping on several busy roads in Dudley in a bid to ease congestion.

Dudley Council has introduced traffic orders which will ban vehicles from waiting at the side of the road. The measure will be brought in at the junction of Dixon Green Road and Bean Road and at the junction of Laurel Road, Limes Road and Meadow Road in Dudley. Waiting has also been banned on parts of Dudley Road in Wall Heath, near the junction with High Street.

## INSIDE

### GOING CRAZY AT THE GRAND



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## Coach pays tribute to club rugby player, 14

DEVASTATED members of Stourbridge Rugby Club have paid tribute to a young player who died last week.

Thomas Mole, aged 14, from Wollaston, lost his short but bravely fought battle on Thursday, April 26, leaving parents Simon and Rachel and little sister Poppy.

The Oldswinford Hospital school pupil was a Stourbridge Rugby Club under-14s player and was described by his coaches as a 'true warrior' who would do anything for his teammates.

In a poignant statement on the Stourbridge Rugby Club website, coach Chris Roe said: "Throughout his years with his team mates Tom flourished into a massively physical and combative Number Eight. He was a true warrior and would do anything for his team mates."

"The Number 8 will be retired in his honour and replaced with a T. These times shouldn't happen to our kids, but the world can be a cruel place at times. The messages of support they have already received from the rugby family both near and far have been truly humbling and these will be of great comfort."

Thomas was looked after by staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital and a Just Giving page has just been set up for donations to the hospital in his memory. Visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/srfcu14](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/srfcu14)

● Club's tribute – page 40

## More contacting their GP online

MORE than 300,000 patients in the Black Country are now using GP services online.

Figures reveal 316,000 patients in the region now book appointments, request repeat prescriptions and view their records using either a smartphone, tablet, laptop or PC.

NHS Digital statistics from February 2018 show, on average, 26,000 appointments are made or cancelled online every month in the Black Country.

More than 34,000 prescriptions are also ordered online.

GP practices are consequently seeing fewer people failing to attend appointments because it's easy to reschedule online.

## Civil war hero talk

A TALK on English Civil War Royalist hero Prince Rupert is being held by Friends of Dudley Archives and Local History Service at the archives in Tipton Road tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm. £2.

# Ultra effort by friends for charities



Richard Harris, Dan Woodall and Tom Lee-Field tackling the 60-mile run

THREE friends have beaten the grueling Ultra Tour of Arran raising nearly £2,000 for two charities

Dan Woodall, Rich Harris and Tom Lee-Field, from Stourbridge, took on the 60-mile off-road race over two days.

They battled testing conditions and incredibly rough terrain in order to cross the finish line in support of the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge and the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA).

So far they have managed to raise more than £1,960 for the Hagley Road hospice and the MNDA.

The trio, in a statement, said: "The challenge itself was split into two days, the south half of the island on day one and the mountainous north half on the second day."

"It was an exhausting challenge that pushed us to the limits but one full of truly stunning scenes at every turn."

"We would just like to say a massive thank you for all the support and sponsorship we have received."

Donations can be made by going to the website, [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/danrichardtomsultratourofarran2018](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/danrichardtomsultratourofarran2018)

# Closing in on motorists who endanger cyclists

A SAFER driving scheme has rolled out onto the roads in Dudley borough for the first time in the project's two-year history.

Officers from the West Midlands Police Road Harm Reduction unit held the Close Pass scheme in Long Lane, Halesowen.

Undercover officers used a Boardman Hybrid road bike equipped with full HD cameras and walkie-talkies to pick up drivers passing too close to the bike.

But this was more than just a way of dishing out licence points and a fine, say police chiefs, who, with the help of the fire service, instead gave on-the-spot advice to those caught.

A special mat was set up to deliver a lesson to motorists about the distance recommended to keep cyclists safe – which, according to Pc Steve Hudson, is the width of a lorry door.

Pc Hudson said: "It is not about going after drivers and it is not about prosecuting or persecuting. It is about education and driver awareness and cycling awareness."

### Behaviour

"Before we started this scheme we spent over two years with cycling groups looking at their behaviour on the road and looking at things that were causing them problems on the road. It is about changing driver behaviour. We want to send that person away thinking 'I am actually now better armed and equipped to deal with a vulnerable road user'."

"I will explain to the motorist that they have passed the cyclist too closely. It is an offence but, instead of sending them away with something that they may not learn from, we want to arm them better to deal with cyclists in the future."

"What generally happens is the longer you drive safely on the road without incident the narrower your field of vision becomes and you become very complacent."

David Viner, from Halesowen Cycling Club, was present to support the scheme. He said: "I think the Close Pass initiative is fantastic. Most motorists overtake cyclists reasonably well but a lot of people just need to be reminded that cyclists do need room on the road."



Pc Mark Hodson, safety officer Peter Swanwick, watch commander Paul Stephens and Pc Steve Hudson



Pc Mark Hodson takes to a cycle to test motorists



A motorbike officer keeps a watchful eye on motorists

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cycling club in park open day

A CYCLING club is hosting an open day next weekend to encourage more residents to get on their bikes.

Stourbug Cycling Club will host the event on Saturday, May 12, at the Activity Centre in Mary Steven's Park, between 12 noon and 3pm.

The event will offer residents the chance to find out more about cycling with the club, as well as Brockmoor Community Cycling Club who cater for beginners.

Stourbug was founded in 2007, by Russell and Nicky Eden, and now has a membership of more than 250, offering rides to suit all abilities. Free bike checks will be available.

### Furniture store is closing down

A WELL-KNOWN Black Country furniture store is closing down.

William & Sons, in Level Street, Brierley Hill, has announced its closure after 21 years.

Managing director William Cole said: "It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that I have taken the decision to begin the process of closing down our store. After considering all possible options, we know this is the right course of action."

Mr Cole said the death of his father and an 'extremely challenging' market were factors behind the closure.

### Big bash concert as choir turns 21

A CHOIR from Cradley Heath turns 21 this year and will be performing at their very own birthday party to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice

Members of Voices in Harmony, which has nearly 70 members, have organised a night of music at Dudley Town Hall on May 12 featuring more than 120 singers.

The multi-choir extravaganza will be hosted by Crackerjack's Don Maclean and The Gentlemen Songsters, Colla Voce and Viva Musica.

Tickets are available via borough halls.co.uk or call (01384) 812812.

### £2,000 prize joy for a postcode winner

ONE lucky Dudley household is celebrating their good fortune after winning a double cash prize with the People's Postcode Lottery.

The Limepit Lane winner, using the postcode DY1 3DS, saw the daily prize money doubled to £2,000 on April 24 as they played with two tickets.

Danyl Johnson, People's Postcode Lottery ambassador, said a minimum of 32 per cent of ticket sales goes to charities, including Dudley Mind.

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BEFORE



## COUNTY NEWS

### New role to help river take course

BIRMINGHAM and Black Country Wildlife Trust is recruiting for a part-time senior officer to lead the Salmon in the Stour project.

The project involves restoring the River Stour through the Black Country. The trust is seeking someone with experience of managing projects who is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about river ecology. Closing date for applications is May 11.

Salmon in the Stour is a partnership between the trust, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Severn Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency.

The aim is to see salmon breeding in the catchment headwaters again.

### Google bus set to boost digital skills

A BUS is touring the region to give people the opportunity to improve their digital skills and learn from a group of top experts.

The Google Digital Garage bus is part of a programme run by Google and digital inclusion charity Good Things Foundation. It is visiting more than 30 locations including Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Cannock. Visitors can join courses on how to build a CV and social media strategy and the training ranges from beginner to intermediate levels.

The bus is visiting organisations in the Online Centres Network. No booking is required to visit the bus.

### Blakemore Retail finalist for award

BLAKEMORE Retail, part of Willenhall-based A F Blakemore & Son is a finalist in the independent retail chain of the year in the 2018 Grocer Gold Awards.

The winners will be announced in London on June 12. Blakemore Retail, which has its head office at Longacres Industrial Estate, Rose Hill, Willenhall, operates 290 Spar stores across England and Wales.

It is the largest independent convenience store operator in the UK.

### Club golfers chip in with £700 for cause

GOLFERS chipped in to raise £700 for the Midlands Air Ambulance. ave Shaw, the 2017 senior captain at Wergs Golf Club, Wolverhampton, handed over the cheque to one of the charity's Staffordshire fundraisers Katie West at a ceremony at the golf club in Keepers Lane. The money was raised by the club's senior section throughout the 2017 golfing season.

# Force recruit specials after four year gap

WEST Midlands Police are recruiting volunteer police officers to their Special Constabulary for the first time in four years.

Recruitment opened last week as the force seek to boost numbers to support both day-to-day policing, as well as major events coming to the region in the next few years. It is the force's first step towards getting ready for the Commonwealth Games in 2020 and volunteers will play a huge part in delivering a safe, secure and enjoyable event.

The force is looking to recruit specials and volun-

teers from all the diverse communities across the West Midlands.

Chris Thurley, assistant director in people and organisation development, said: "Our special constables are a huge part of the West Midlands Police family. Last year they volunteered over 30,000 hours to support the service we offer the public.

"They are integral members of our neighbourhood teams, our front line response teams, helping to support our most vulnerable victims in public protection, force CID, operations, motorway polic-

ing – the opportunities are endless. We are looking to increase our number as we gear up for some of the biggest events to be seen in the West Midlands, like Coventry becoming City of Culture in 2021 and, of course, Birmingham hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2022."

Mike Rogers, head of special constabulary, a lawyer and property developer, said: "It looks good on the CV, and helps expand and develop your skills." Closing dates for applications is Sunday. Visit jobs.west-midlands.police.uk website.

# Jail for robbers foiled by shop customers

By John Scott

### THREE raiders have been jailed after their robbery of a shop was foiled by brave customers.

Stuart Dublin, aged 36 and 51-year-old Carl Cina were masked and armed with an iron bar when they burst into the One Stop shop in Worcester Street, Stourbridge.

They grabbed £662 cash and filled a bin bag with £75 worth of cigarettes as a 10-year-old customer watched. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Getaway driver Delroy Nettleford, 53, was waiting in a stolen Volvo. But then Mr Pardeep Singh entered the shop, telling the robbers: 'You are not going anywhere.'

Mr Rupert Jones, prosecuting, explained that in the altercation that followed Cina had his nose broken and had several teeth knocked out while Dublin was left with ear damage by a punch as other customers, Julian Hodges and William Croft, helped Mr Singh detain the robbers until police arrived. Nettleford drove off but was stopped and arrested by officers soon afterwards.

The three robbers had been drinking and taking drugs before raiding the shop at 10pm on September 1. They all had previous convictions.

Miss Katie Fox, defending, said the 'inept' robbery had been planned at the last minute by drug-addled minds.

Dublin, of Blowers Green Road, Nettleford, of Stourbridge Road, both Dudley, and Cina, of Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, each admitted robbery and theft. Cina also pleaded guilty to a drug offence and breaching a suspended sentence. Cina was jailed for four years, Dublin was for two years four months and Nettleford for two years three months.

Judge James Burbidge QC ordered the 'significant public spirited conduct' of Mr Singh be recognised with a £250 payment from the High Sheriff's funds.

### The tug of history at museum gathering



Canal boats at the Black Country Living Museum, which will host the Tug Boats Gathering this weekend

ONE of the largest tug boat gatherings in the country is set to take place in Dudley over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The Black Country Living Museum will be celebrating the legacy of the canal network with a weekend of hands-on crafts, activities and fascinating talks.

From the 1920s onwards, tug boats with their diesel engines were used to navigate the hundreds of miles of canals in the Black Country, pulling large amounts of cargo.

Visitors to the museum will be invited to step back in time and see the rare boats put through their paces.

Each tug boat is capable of pulling up to 200 tons. Tim Shields, curator of industry and transport at the Tipton Road attraction, said: "Canals and boats are now associated with pleasure and leisure, but they once played a vital role in making the Black Country – and indeed the Midlands – what it is today. We want to offer visitors the chance to step back in time and experience this long lost way of life, the culture and art that came with it."

Events will run from Saturday to Bank Holiday Monday, between 10am and 6pm. May 7 also marks the museum's annual May Day celebrations with traditional may pole dancing. Visit [www.bclm.com](http://www.bclm.com) for details.

# Teenager attacked partner's ex-boyfriend

A TEENAGER who twice launched unprovoked attacks on his partner's ex-boyfriend has been ordered to pay his victim £2,000 in compensation.

A judge told 19-year-old Luke Rogers: "You thoroughly deserve to go to prison." But he gave him a suspended sentence that saw the defendant compensate Connor Hart for his injuries and for damage to his car.

Rogers, of Bluebell Road, Dudley, was sentenced to a total of 19 months detention for the two attacks, suspended for 18 months and was ordered to carry out 120 hours unpaid work as well as paying Mr Hart.

The first assault took place on May 6 last year when Rogers spotted his partner's ex outside her address and struck him a couple of times through the open window of the victim's vehicle. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Mr Hart suffered a cut to the head while the car was dented and a wing mirror damaged.

The second attack took place a month later, on June 12, following a chance encounter in Dudley. Mr Nicolas Burn, prosecuting, said Rogers punched Mr Hart in the face twice and kicked him to the head three or four times as he lay on the ground.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said Rogers was still with the girl who had been the subject of the rivalry. They had a baby and Rogers has since found a job.

He pleaded guilty to two assaults, causing actual bodily harm, and one count of criminal damage. Judge James Burbidge, QC, told Rogers he lacked maturity.

# Merger of shops giants is halted

THE merger of the owners of Merry Hill shopping centre and Birmingham's Bull Ring and Grand Central will definitely not go ahead.

Last week the board of shopping centres group Hammerson withdrew its recommendation that its shareholders vote in favour of its all-share offer for Intu Properties. Hammerson's offer was conditional on the approval of its shareholders and Intu has decided there is now no realistic prospect that this condition would be satisfied.

Intu group company secretary Susan Marsden said the board had determined not to proceed.

"The board of Intu is entirely confident of Intu's stand-alone commercial future and prospects," added Mrs Marsden.

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## State-of-the-art £644k pitch opens

A £644,000 floodlit 3G pitch at Brierley Hill is being officially opened next week.

The state-of-the-art pitch at the Dell Stadium has been developed thanks to investment from the Premier League, The FA and Sport England.

It will be opened by the Mayor of Dudley on Wednesday at 6.30pm. The evening will continue at 7.30pm with a football match on the new pitch between Wolves All Stars and Dudley Town FC and members of the public are welcome throughout.

Among those to use the pitch are Dudley Town, Gornal Colts and Stourbridge and District Youth League.

## Suspected bag snatcher arrested

A WOMAN suspected of trying to snatch three handbags in Dudley has been arrested by police.

Three different women in Dudley town centre were approached on Sunday afternoon (April 22) and had their handbags grabbed but on each occasion a member of the public intervened and saved the victims from having their property stolen.

The incidents were captured on CCTV and the woman was later arrested. The arrest is one of a number made by police in Dudley recently for theft or attempted theft.

## Machete thugs in raid on shop

AN ARMED gang threatened a store worker with a machete before beating him up and stealing cigarettes.

Four thugs targeted the Highway Food and Drinks Store in Daisy Street, Coseley.

One of the offenders, carrying the weapon, demanded money from a member of staff. The gang then beat up the terrified worker and punched him several times in the head.

Detectives have launched an investigation into the incident, which took place on Sunday, April 22, at around 6.50pm.

## Avanti showroom to open in Oldswinford

AVANTI Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms is unveiling its new Oldswinford showroom today (Thursday).

Avanti, which has its head office in Lye, first opened in 1981 and also has showrooms in Kidderminster, Brierley Hill and Wolverhampton. The new showroom is on Hagley Road and a special by-invitation opening event featured tasting with Avanti's wine expert Karl Gouget and a speech by managing director Lee Capewell.

# Ball had licence to thrill award-winners



Mayor Dave Tyler and his wife Barbara

A JAMES Bond themed ball and awards night raised more than £4,000 for the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

The annual Mayor's Ball and Civic Awards was attended by more than 300 people at the Copthorne Hotel, in Brierley Hill.

The themed event, sponsored by Excel 2000 Windows, helped to raise £4,295 which will be split between the Mayor's three charities – Dudley Mind, YMCA Black Country Group and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

A host of businesses, civic dignitaries and community group representatives attended the evening, which featured casino tables, raffle, auction, games and entertainment.

Dudley Mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, said: "I am overjoyed that the ball has raised so much money for my three chosen charities and I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the businesses, sponsors and all who attended the night for making it possible."

"I would also like to thank all our award winners and nominees, they are all amazing people who help to make our borough a better place."

Those winners, who were each presented with a piece of hand-crafted glassware, included snooker star Reanne Evans, Halesowen in Bloom campaigner Eve O'Connor, long-serving special school worker Maureen Smith, fundraiser Gurcharan Bhujangy, and Captain Andy Peters of Dudley's Army Reserve Centre.

Organisations that received awards included Mary Stevens Hospice, who the public voted to receive the Mayor's Pride of Dudley Award, and famous Dudley confectionary business Teddy Gray's got the business prize.

# Application goes in to demolish eyesore block

**LONG-AWAITED plans to demolish an eyesore office block in Dudley town centre have been lodged as part of a multi-million pound development.**

The move to redevelop the site of Cavendish House has been welcomed by community leaders.

The planning application is to knock down the former office block in Trindle Road and replace it with a mix of retail, leisure and residential properties. The rundown block, considered by many to be Dudley's biggest eyesore, overlooks the Duncan Edwards Way bypass – one of the major gateways into the town and the borough.

Councillor Alan Lunt, strategic director for place at Dudley Council, said: "This is a very hugely significant step in our ongoing work to create more jobs and investment in Dudley. The planning application will have to go through the normal process but, if approved, will be one of the biggest investments in Dudley in decades bringing millions of pounds of investment, jobs and much more."

## Masterplan

"The development would be part of a wider masterplan of improvements including the multi-million pound Midland Metro extension to Brierley Hill and a revamped bus station in Dudley which will revolutionise public transport for the area."

The applicant is Avenbury Properties.

The rundown 85,880 sq ft office block, once home to the Inland Revenue, has been empty for many years and is standing in the way of ambitious plans to revamp Dudley's bus station.

It must be demolished before work can begin on £50 million plans to redevelop the site, which is also planned to link to the Midland Metro.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley earlier this year said the application alone is expected to cost more than £100,000, before funding for the actual demolition. A supermarket, restaurant, shops and homes are envisaged to replace Cavendish House in a development known as Porter's Field, expected to bring 500 jobs to Dudley.

Councillor Harley said he was looking forward to the demolition, adding: "Once that happens, then we can get on with the rest of Dudley and everything will fit into place."



An artist's impression of the scheme that will replace Cavendish House in the town centre



A closer view of the proposed development



Days numbered – Cavendish House in Dudley

## Attacks on ambulance staff are increasing

ATTACKS on ambulance staff in the West Midlands have almost doubled in five years with just 20 per cent of offenders punished.

West Midlands Ambulance Service workers suffered 325 physical assaults in 2017/18, up from 175 in 2012/13.

But of the 1,597 attacks across the six years, just 20 per cent led to police or court action, 324 cases. Civil actions such as warning letters were sent out in 10 per cent of the cases, 158.

The figures have come from union GMB, which has compiled the number of attacks from all ambulance services in the country. They also rose 34 per cent in the five years.

Examples of violent attacks reported by GMB members include being bitten, stabbed and having blood spat at them by drug users.

This came ahead of a vote by MPs on tougher sentences for attacks on emergency workers. The Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Bill would introduce a new offence of common assault against an emergency worker and require courts to treat attacks on emergency workers as an aggravating factor for sentencing.

A survey by the union of 500 ambulance staff across the UK also found 37 per cent had considered leaving their job due to the threat of violence and 21 per cent had to take sick leave due to violent assaults.

## Building skills for women in Dudley

WOMEN interested in working in construction are invited to attend a series of free information sessions taking place in Dudley next month.

Dudley Council's adult learning service is working with the national organisation Women into Construction to run the workshops.

Sessions will run at Castle and Priory Neighbourhood Learning Centre from 10am to 11am and Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre at 1pm to 3pm on May 24 and Brierley Hill Neighbourhood Learning Centre from 10am to 11am on May 25.

The workshops offer construction related training and access to work placements. Call (01384) 818143, go to [www.dudley.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/adultlearning) or [www.women-into-construction.org](http://www.women-into-construction.org)

## Back to the 80s

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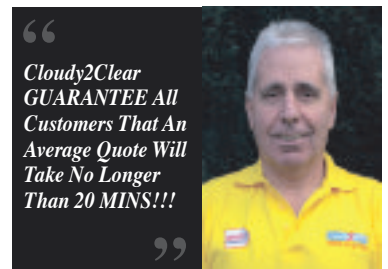
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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# So Prince Louis just what is in a name?

SO Prince Louis it is, then, the latest addition to the Cambridge household. Yes, I know he is named after Louis Mountbatten, the Duke of Edinburgh's uncle murdered by terrorists in 1979, but it doesn't sound right does it? A bit too reminiscent of King Louis XVI of France, perhaps. And things didn't end terribly well for him.

Anyway, I guess that means I will have to wait until next time for one of the Cambridge children to be named with my personal choice, Austin.

Austin Cambridge. A wonderful ring to it, don't you think?

□ □ □

THE moment I saw the picture of Sohail Khan, the rapper turned would-be councillor for Tettenhall, I knew this would be entertaining. Whether it's William Hague's baseball cap or Jeremy Corbyn hanging out with grime stars, there is always something cringeworthy about politicians trying to get "down with da kids". And while I am not familiar with Mr Khan's contribution to the music industry, I would be surprised if it were not more Ali G than Ice.

Now rude-boy Sohail finds himself in hot water, after it emerged he posted a picture of a pistol on Facebook in 2012. Councillor Martin Waite says he is "not fit for office" and is "glamorising gun crime". Oh, gerrover yerself, as we say in the Black Country. These people don't half take themselves seriously, don't they?

If Councillor Waite thinks Mr Khan is glamorising anything whatsoever, he probably needs to get out more. While I don't profess to be entirely representative of da yute in da 'hood, I'm fairly sure there are few things less glamorous than local council politics. Mr Khan has probably done more to de-glamorise guns with his Facebook post than the Home Office has managed in decades. Respect, bruv.

□ □ □

THERE are few people who cannot have been moved by the tragic last days of Alfie Evans, and you have to sympathise with medical staff who, faced with some thankless and difficult decisions, had to deal with a torrent of unwarranted abuse and intimidation.

That said, while it may be right for highly-skilled medics to refuse treatment they believe is not in the interests of the child, the litigation to stop him going to Italy is something else. The NHS is supposed to be about providing health care, not using the legal system to stop sick children going abroad for care if it is what the parents wish. And the NHS surely has more pressing needs for its funds than hiring expensive lawyers.

## Lighten up, we need our Royal Family for some things



Kate – denounced by tabloid for looking "too perfect" as she posed with her baby



Farmer Stephen Nolan won a lot of support for his sign about smelly animals



Master Sergeant Robin Brown sacked after dinosaur hand-puppet incident

# But who would plant all those saplings . . .

THERE was some speculation that William and Kate's little boy who arrived this week might have been overdue and born late. A republican reader asks: "Late for what?" He goes on to say uncharitable things about this privileged little chap being able to look forward to 80 years or more spent doing absolutely nothing of any consequence. Oh, lighten up. If it wasn't for our Royal Family, who would plant all those saplings, watch all that ethnic dancing and draw apart the little curtains to reveal all those plaques?

THE Duchess of Cambridge appears outside the clinic with her newborn prince and is denounced by one tabloid for looking "too perfect." How can normal mums, with no nannies or hairdressers on call, expect to look so lovely? Listen. As any David Icke fan and conspiracy theorist knows, the Windsors are not humans but giant, shape-shifting lizards. We should be thankful that Kate merely looked radiant and did not come down the clinic steps as a rampaging komodo dragon clutching a large egg.

THE BBC describes a breakthrough in laboratory-grown food as "the veggie burger that bleeds when you cut it." Coming soon – mushrooms that scream when you peel 'em.

'TIS the season to be painting. As I may have pointed out earlier, some paint names convey little about the colour in the tin. From one leading range we have discovered Overtly Olive, Sophisticated Sage and the deeply enigmatic Wellbeing.

I WAS skinning a brontosaurus outside my cave the other day when the news came in of the TSB online-banking catastrophe. I admit-

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



told me: "I don't remember any of us talking about being scared, we just got on with it." All sorts of great deeds were done in the Normandy Campaign but how many D-Day teenagers went ashore without even a gun and ended the day with an award for gallantry? I would not mind betting that Bill Bennett's D-Day was unique. I wish Bill and Sylvia every happiness.

MY piece on blood-pressure reminds a reader of an appointment with his GP when his pressure readings were a bit high. The doctor suggested he should relax, sit down for 10 minutes and read a newspaper. It was the Daily Mail. As he puts it: "You can guess the rest."

CONFUSING headlines of our time: "Man bitten by shark previously attacked by bear and snake." (Sky News).

I CAME across a brief report that Bill and Sylvia Bennett of Kidderminster have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. It said that Bill spent D-Day, June 6, 1944 on a "secret operation" on the Normandy beaches. There was much more to it than that. I met Bill, 91, on a pilgrimage to Normandy some years ago and his D-Day story was astonishing. For a start he was only 18, a Merchant Navy lad put into Royal Navy uniform for the invasion. Secondly, working under enemy fire on the Pluto undersea pipeline at Gold Beach, he was not given any sort of weapon. Thirdly, having helped a wounded comrade to safety, he got a Mentioned in Dispatches for bravery and good conduct. He

MASTER Sergeant Robin Brown thought she'd enliven the US National Guard oath of allegiance by using a dinosaur hand-puppet to recite the words, Sooty-and-Sweep style. Unsurprisingly, she and two colleagues who took part in the gag have been sacked. What is surprising is that Brown served in the public-affairs office. Despite all the media training, she forgot the first rule of public relations. Wherever you are and whatever you're about to do, just pause, remind yourself that you live in a world where there are no longer any secrets and ask the question: how's this gonna look in the papers?

A LANCASHIRE farmer, Stephen Nolan, has won much support for erecting a sign pointing out that, among other things, farm animals "make funny sounds, smell bad and have sex outdoors." Unless you can tolerate all this, he says, then don't buy a property next to a farm. Which all sounds perfectly reasonable. Except that in my experience when people suddenly start complaining about farm smells it isn't always because they're newly-arrived snowflake townies who can't abide old-fashioned muck. Sometimes they are long-term country dwellers living close to a farmer who's just drenched his fields in pig or poultry slurry, or some other vile-smelling by-product of industrialised agriculture, and is playing the "townie" card rather than doing the decent thing and apologising.

## TALKING POINT



# We should be spitting mad over vile habit

REGULAR readers will have noticed that this column never shies away from any subject, serious or trivial, but there is one topic that is long overdue – spitting in public.

For whatever reason, there seems to be a creeping acceptability of this revolting habit, whether it be in the street, or open spaces such as parks, and railway station platforms.

Years ago, although smoking was allowed on the upper deck of buses, there was invariably a Spitting Prohibited sign to remind passengers that this was most definitely banned.

Birmingham rock 'n' roller Steve Gibbons even wrote a song, 'No Spitting On The Bus', in which he says boredom and disillusionment can never be used as an excuse.

That was in the 1970s but today there is another factor to consider – aggression. Health service workers are often targeted by spitting yobs for no other reason, it seems, than to get the upper hand.

On the football pitch, spitting is deemed to be one of the most serious misdemeanours when aimed at an opponent, yet many a TV camera has captured instances of phlegm being deposited on the turf, very often in glorious close-up.

Earlier this year while at the wheel of his car ex-footballer Jamie Carragher called on all his spitting 'skills' when goaded by another driver and spat in the direction of a 14-year-old girl. Thanks to the dubious merits of social media, this was viewed hundreds of thousands of times, and yes, if you have not had the misfortune to see the incident, it is as disgusting as you might imagine.

Alongside spitting, there's another custom which seems to be becoming the norm, much more rapidly than spitting, and that is regularly sniffing when a good blow of the nose would cure the problem. What is so very difficult about buying a cheap box of handkerchiefs or pocket tissues and clearing the tubes once and for all?

And then there's coughing into one's 'rolled up' hand, which experts will tell you acts as a blowpipe capable of sending germs flying even further, or worse still not using your hand at all. Much better to cough into your upright palm, which acts as a barrier to flying bacteria.

It's all a matter of education. Over a relatively short time, we have come to accept that dog mess must be picked up, and smoking is no longer permitted in public places, so how about an intense public information campaign?

Perhaps that man Mr Gibbons could write a follow-up titled 'No Spitting . . . Anywhere'. You tell 'em, Steve.

STEVE PARLETT

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## Venue needs to find a change of use

The Dudley Hippodrome has been the subject of much controversy ever since it closed. Why was it closed?

Because times change and no amount of wishful thinking from a group of well-wishers will change that. I do wish things were different.

Modern entertainment is loud and banal. There are no great comedians these days, foul-mouthed, unshaven trainer-clad per-

sons being the norm, with not a funny bone between them. Musicians seem to be of the Lloyd Webber type and music hall is dead.

Perhaps the Jehovah's Witnesses might take the hall over as an overflow to its magnificent building opposite?

At least the Hippodrome would survive, and that surely is the object of the support group? However, they should hasten along and do something before the building becomes past it.

MR C K MILLWARD  
Tipton

## So is pocket money cash suspect now?

I WONDER how many more of your readers have been as amazed as I was today?

With two grandchildren living some distance away I hold their building society bank books in order to pay a small amount of pocket money in from time to time.

Their parents are then able to sort out what they wish to buy with this money or to save it for them.

The building society cashier informed me that I cannot pay cash into their accounts at a branch, only the parents can do this and money laundering was mentioned. Well, I for one wouldn't know the first thing about this practice, nor do I want to know.

Whoever thought up this crackpot idea gets my jobsworth vote.

MRS L SHELTON  
Dudley

## Defence must be the priority

WHILST on his recent visit to Kingswinford the Chancellor Philip Hammond claimed that "Britain will always have the forces to deal effectively with our potential adversaries". This after his recommendation that the number of our forces should be reduced from 78,000 to 50,000.

He is clearly unaware, or dismisses the fact, that the Russian army has 200,000 women alone, four times the strength he would like to see of our combined three armed forces. Complacency does not begin to describe his attitude.

It is of no earthly use having a booming economy, a thriving NHS, a successful education system and a robust social infrastructure if you are dead. The defence of this country and the protection of its people should be given, now and always, absolute priority over all other considerations.

MR B WILLIAMS  
Wordsley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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If we cannot reach a resolution contact Ipso at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at Ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

## Parliament should not be bypassed

ALL civilised countries have seen the dreadful outcome of a chemical attack launched on the innocent people of Syria.

This is not the first time this criminal regime has done this to its own people. These acts of inhumanity can be compared to the worst acts of atrocity in human history.

It is important that our government has the cour-

age to pronounce that those involved will be held accountable for their unforgivable actions. What we do in response to this murderous act needs the support of the country. Mrs May should not have acted without the support of Parliament, this issue is so important the House needs to approve any actions taken.

JOHN GREEN  
Sedgley

## We must be realistic on Hippodrome

I, like Marlene Watson (Chronicle, April 19), would like to see Dudley Hippodrome re-opened, but one has to be realistic. After a couple of pop concerts and maybe a local amateur show, what would fill the theatre for the rest of the year? Television closed the theatre and now home bingo has done the same.

M PARSONS  
Brierley Hill

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## 10 County has two new police chiefs

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, May 3, 2018

TWO new neighbourhood policing team chiefs have been appointed in Staffordshire.

Chief Inspector Mark Ward, aged 45, is the new leader for South Staffordshire local neighbourhood police team while Chief Inspector Mark Smith, 44, will be the head of the Lichfield policing area.

Mr Ward will be responsible for Wombourne, Kinver, Codsall, Penkridge, Pattingham, Perton, Essington and Huntington.

The father-of-one moved to Staffordshire last year after serving 21 years with West Midlands Police. He began his career as a constable in Wolverhampton, before moving to Birmingham as an Inspector in 2009 and in February 2017 he transferred forces and became Deputy Commander at Cannock before taking up his new post at South Staffordshire.

Mr Ward said: "I'm really looking forward to getting to know the local communities and area and build upon the excellent work already in place."

### Encourage

"I would encourage people to tell us what makes a difference to them and share any intelligence and information they may have."

"The force is going through a number of changes to improve the way we police Staffordshire and I'm hoping to use my experience to help ensure the change programme is effective as possible."

Father-of-two Mr Smith has been with Staffordshire Police since 1993 as a uniform constable in Stafford and has since been a response and neighbourhood officer in Tamworth where he later became the force's lead tactical firearms commander. He was head of the force's tactical support department. He said: "I am absolutely delighted to have the chance to return to head up neighbourhood policing which is the bedrock of policing."

# Easy access for all as centre's new sensory garden opens

## Football fan's England anthem for charity



Steve Heathcock has re-released his song 'England Forever' to raise money for homeless charity Shelter

A SINGER from Stourbridge has released a charity single ahead of this year's World Cup in Russia.

Steve Heathcock has re-released his song 'England Forever' to raise money for homeless charity Shelter and to show his support for the national team in this summer's tournament.

Steve, aged 51, said: "We are all one step away from homelessness. It could be anyone."

Steve, who is a full-time singer and

performer, decided to raise money for Shelter after witnessing homelessness on the streets of his home town.

The song was originally released ahead of the 2010 World Cup, but has been remixed into a dance track with a pop mix on B-side. Some of the lyrics have also been rewritten.

The single was released on April 27 and Steve says it has been well supported so far.

"It's a World Cup anthem about

bring people together. I don't expect to make a lot of money but if I can raise awareness that's good."

Steve also backed Gareth Southgate's team for a successful tournament.

He said: "I'm always optimistic. I definitely think they will get out of the group stages and after that it's a bonus."

The single is available on iTunes, or via [www.steveheathcock.com](http://www.steveheathcock.com) website.

PEOPLE with learning disabilities can enjoy a brand new sensory garden following work at a specialist centre in Stourbridge.

The Mayor of Dudley officially opened the new garden at the Unicorn Centre in Amblecote this week.

A nationally recognised resource, the centre is used by people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and complex health needs and it is hoped the garden will give visitors the chance to safely explore the outdoor space.

Work to develop the wheelchair-friendly garden began last year.

Different materials, trees, shrubs and plants have been included to stimulate the senses throughout the year through colour, texture and smell. All-weather awnings have been fitted to provide shade and shelter.

The garden also incorporates a seating area using environmentally-friendly hardwood furniture, soft lighting, outdoor speakers and sensory accessories such as bells, solar chimes, windsocks and colourful pinwheels.

### Flowerbeds

Raised flowerbeds will give people the opportunity to try their hand at gardening.

Matt Bowsher, chief officer for adult social care, said: "Dudley Council is delighted to see this new sensory garden installed at the Unicorn Centre, which is a leading service for people with disabilities."

"We are always looking to build strong relationships with the local community working closely with schools and other agencies. We are hopeful that the garden will become a shared resource where people can come together and share in the joy of gardening."

The Unicorn Centre underwent a £1.2 million refurbishment in 2011 and is now a fully accessible centre, equipped with innovative technology.

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The Little Big Time Band will perform at Holy Trinity Amblecote, in Vicarage Road, on Saturday from 7.30pm. The band are a group of musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, who perform popular classics, jazz and pop.

The concert is being held in celebration of the 175th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church's consecration.

Tickets for the concert cost £10, which includes a glass of wine and nibbles. For tickets call (01384) 423270.

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# More police officers to get body cameras

## Force deploy HD drones



Three drones with HD cameras have been bought by West Midlands Police

POLICE have taken to the skies to test out new drones equipped with high-definition cameras, which will be used to fight crime in the West Midlands.

Officers from West Midlands Police are now using the latest 'eye-in-the-sky' technology to target criminals and keep a watch on unfolding events with a bird's eye view.

The unmanned aerial vehicles – UAVs – were in action above Millennium Point in Birmingham, for a demonstration and were deployed during last week's serious flooding in Wednesbury.

The force has purchased three drones and paid for seven officers to be trained to operate them using £28,000 raised from assets seized from convicted criminals.

BODY cameras are to be rolled out to 2,400 more police officers in the West Midlands, at a cost of almost £4 million.

An extra 110 head cameras will also be purchased for officers attending public events.

It comes after a successful trial when 1,617 body cameras and 263 head cameras were given to frontline response officers three years ago.

The latest move has been unveiled by Assistant Chief Constable Kenny Bell at a meeting of the force's strategic policing and crime board.

He said the cameras had increased the number of people charged in relation to crimes by 12 per cent and the number of suspects pleading guilty to offences at an early stage by nine per cent.

### Complaints

It has also resulted in a 46 per cent drop in complaints in Wolverhampton, he added. ACC Bell said: "It is now intended to extend the roll out of cameras to neighbourhood and other operation teams such as force traffic and force support units."

The extra cameras will cost £3.8m to roll out over the next five years. The force will also spend £1.4m on storage and licences.

ACC Bell said work was also being done to allow data from the cameras to securely be transferred directly to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Security means only individual officers can access their footage along with their supervisors, investigators and specialist departments.

Around 15,800 videos are uploaded from officer cameras every month, and 12,800 images. Around a quarter of videos and 80 per cent of images are kept for evidence.

Board member Dr Lynette Kelly, a Coventry councillor, said: "Body-worn cameras are increasing confidence in policing."

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# Hall gardens open in aid of church wall repairs



George Williams on the grounds of his family home, Envile Hall, which will be opening to the public on Sunday

THE glorious gardens at a stately home near Stourbridge will be opening to the public on Sunday to raise funds towards restoration work at a village church.

Envile Hall owners, Peter and Diana Williams, aim to raise at least £1,000 for St Mary's Church after the churchyard's retaining wall collapsed. Repair work has already begun next to the A458 road.

Rev Martin Soar said: "Peter and Diana are always really supportive of

the church. The funds being raised are fantastic. The community of Envile village has always been very supportive alongside Kinver and the Black Country. I am really grateful to everyone who will support the event."

George Williams, Peter and Diana's son and assistant estate manager, said: "We are hoping to get enough people to help pay off any repairs at the church, which needs roughly £20,000."

The 10 acres of gardens will be open between 1pm and 5pm. Admission is £5, under-16s free. Refreshments will be available.



Peter Williams with a rhododendron

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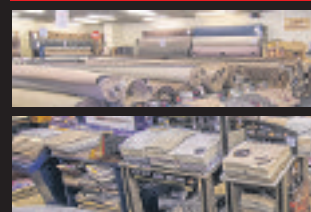
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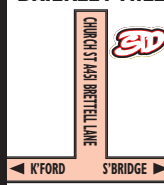
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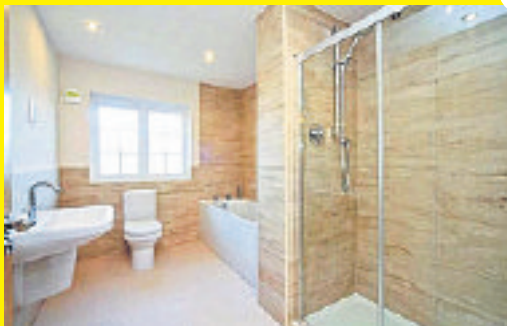
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# 16 Plug pulled on outing to Chester

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, May 3, 2018

Grange (E) Guild

CHAIRMAN Chris Holton presided over the April 10 meeting at St Peter's Centre, Pedmore Lane, Pedmore, and welcomed 27 members and three guests.

She read the minutes from the last meeting which were accepted and duly signed as a true record.

Secretary Sue Wilding reported that unfortunately the outing to Chester had to be cancelled due to the lack of support. She will try to arrange another outing later in the year.

The visit to the Rose Theatre in Kidderminster to see Neighbourhood Watch is booked for May 16. The Federation quiz will be on May 17 and Grange Guild will be entering three teams of four people.

Chris introduced the speaker for the evening, Neil Brazier who gave a talk entitled "Where does a Travel Agent go on holiday?". He gave a guided tour of Turkey, his favourite place. A slide show gave members a very picturesque view and was enjoyed by all. Chris gave the vote of thanks to Neil on members' behalf.

To celebrate Easter hot cross buns were served and the raffle was drawn with three lucky winners. The sales table, which had an Easter theme did very well.

The next meeting will be held at St Peter's Centre on May 8 when Max Keen will give a talk about the history of Dudley Castle. The sales table will consist of biscuits and confectionery.

# Speaker shows spirit with ghost stories



Craig Denston with Wendy Meredith and June Weaver

Dudley South Ladies Lunch

MEMBERS were pleased to welcome back chairman Ann Rogers following the loss of her husband Michael. It was good to have a record attendance of 39 members, visitor Dawn Hampton and new member Betty Ross to enjoy an excellent three-course lunch and hear speaker Craig Denston on "Life as a Ghost".

Mr Denston was an actor who also conducted Ghost Tours at Dudley Castle. He showed slides of strange apparitions photographed in the cellars of the Station Hotel, Dudley as well as in the castle. The Ghost Tours started back in 1993 and continue today.

It was a most thought-provoking afternoon. Meetings are on the second Friday each month at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley, at 12.30pm.

At the next meeting on May 11 the St Andrews Singers will entertain and on June 8 the speaker will be John Evans on "Diamonds are the Queen's Best Friend". A visit to Hagley Hall has been arranged on July 18.

# Max keen on giving castle talk

CHAIRMAN Geoff Longmore opened the meeting, giving details of the summer programme.

Speaker Max Keen, a retired Amblecote Primary teacher, gave a talk on Dudley Castle 1071-1933. He dressed as Ansculf de Piquigny, a French baron who followed William the Conqueror to England and played a significant role in the invasion of England.

He was awarded some 80 manors spread over 11 counties and in 1070 was granted

Amblecote History Society

lands in the West Midlands, including Dudley, where he built the castle.

On May 9, Andrew Lound and actress Penelope Ferguson will carry out a dramatic performance telling the story of the Great War through the eyes of generic soldier Tommy Atkins, from a series of letters written to his wife Alice.

# Snooze you win as cute Mitzi paws's for a nap

THIS cute dog from Dudley taking a snooze has won first prize in a picture competition.

The photograph is of Mitzi in bed at Beverley and Wayne Hodgkins' home in Netherton. It beat 647 entries in the competition run by Pets at Home.

Mr Hodgkins said: "I couldn't believe it, considering the amount of people who had taken part."

But there is no doubt that canines are still considered's man's best friend. "Ninety percent of the pictures were of dogs," added Mr Hodgkins

Mr Hodgkins learned of the competition after a friend, Rachel Pallant, shared a post on Facebook by Pets at Home. The prize for first place was a £20 gift voucher to use at the store.

"I wanted to put her into a competition for some time."

Mr and Mrs Hodgkins said Mitzi always lies in bed in a similar pose.

Mitzi was a 40th birthday present for Mrs Hodgkins. As a puppy, she was originally owned by one of Mrs Hodgkins' cousins.

Until then, the family had never considered getting a dog before, but it is clear they do not regret the decision.

"She's not just a dog; she's part of the family," Mr Hodgkins said. "Everywhere we go, she goes."



The winning picture of Mitzi asleep



A wide awake Mitzi



Picture perfect - Beverley and Wayne Hodgkins, of Netherton, with Mitzi

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## 18 Man fined for burying 5,000 tons of waste

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, May 3, 2018

A MAN who illegally buried more than 5,000 tons of waste on farmland has been ordered to pay more than £5,000 and told to clear the site.

Ivor David John Powell, 65, was fined £1,000 after pleading guilty to burying 5,335 tons of mixed waste at Lower Aston Farm, Aston Lane, Claverley.

The Environment Agency, which brought the prosecution, said the cost of legally disposing of the waste would have been more than £500,000.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Powell, who had no previous convictions, had been 'naive'.

The case was heard on April 19 and Powell was ordered to pay £4,000 costs and a £100 victim surcharge, on top of the £1,000 fine. The court told him to clear the site within three years.

Environment Agency officers said they had discovered the situation during a routine inspection in November, 2015, when they saw a tractor operating on the land that appeared to be levelling the ground.

The officers said they also saw large heaps of shredded mixed waste and noticed the land had been landscaped to incorporate the waste material, which Mr Powell confirmed had been coming onto the site for four months.

## Honda car dealer to expand showroom

A LYE motor dealership is to expand its showroom to meet growing demand.

Startin Honda Stourbridge in Stourbridge Road is to have work done in the first half of this year to enable it to fit in more vehicles. The Startin Honda business, which also has a site in Worcester, is also celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The Lye dealership opened to Honda customers in November 2015, previously selling Hyundai and Ford.

# Commissioner wants action to make cars less easy to steal

## It's child's play for sisters in new venture

A NEW children's play and learning centre, which also offers pampering for parents, has opened in Stourbridge, launched by two sisters.

The Bridge House opened its doors to families in New Road this month and offers classes and activities for children and parents.

The centre, for youngsters under five, has been opened by sisters Claire Hayes, aged 36, and Jenny Peacock, 27, who previously worked as a paediatric occupational therapist and paediatric speech and language therapist respectively.

Bridge House offers families to chance to play, learn, develop and relax with activities including craft and sensory play workshops, and baby yoga.

Claire said: "The centre is predominantly for children under five. My sister and I have started it up together. We had previously run mobile children development classes for three years. We are hoping it is a one-stop shop for everything for families. Parents can go to the cafe - and we also have a salon that offers children's hair cuts and pamper sessions for adults."

"We thought the area was kind of lacking something like this. I have got two children myself and this is the kind of thing I wanted when I was on maternity leave - somewhere that's for soft play and classes for their development. It is something I wanted as a mother. Our background has always been in child development."

Visit [www.atthebridgehouse.com](http://www.atthebridgehouse.com) for details



Jenny Peacock and Claire Hayes with youngsters at the Bridge House in New Road

A RISE in car crime across the West Midlands - from 5,000 to nearly 10,000 crimes a year - has been described 'an epidemic' by a police boss.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson made the comment following a summit with car manufacturers.

He asked bosses from BMW, Ford, Nissan, Jaguar Land Rover, Audi and Honda to increase security for their vehicles. And he hit out at Amazon for listing lock picks on its website.

Speaking at a meeting for the strategic crime and policing board, Mr Jamieson said: "The number of vehicles stolen has doubled over the last two years going from 5,000 to nearly 10,000 per year now."

"It is clear that there is organised crime going on here and its causing a huge amount of misery. I renewed my insurance on my car and discovered how it has escalated enormously because we're all paying for this. We are now facing an epidemic."

### Keyless

He wants manufacturers to install extra security on keyless devices.

He added: "We are seeing that vehicles are being electronically stolen, stolen within 20 to 30 seconds from people's drives and off they go."

He claims kit used by gangs to open the cars are available on sale online.

"I have called on the Government to bring in a national register, so that only those who need these devices for legitimate reasons can purchase them."

Dr Steffan George from the Master Locksmiths Association is backing Mr Jamieson in his campaign. He said: "The open availability of electronic compromise equipment, lock picks and other tools that only locksmiths should have access to is distressing for our industry. The lack of regulation of the locksmith industry means that anyone can call themselves a locksmith."

## Businesses in pledge on jobs for youth

BUSINESS leaders have pledged to help young people in the West Midlands get better access to jobs and skills.

Representatives from firms and local government met at the new Prince's Trust centre in Digbeth, Birmingham, to discuss action being taken.

Brendan Cook, head of transformation at HSBC UK, and Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, spoke at the event which was hosted by Nick Stace, UK chief executive of youth charity The Prince's Trust, and Michele Farmer, director of Central England at The Prince's Trust.

The event heard that with more businesses, like HSBC UK, moving their head offices to the city, the commitment behind the 'Midlands Engine' is growing.

The event also marked the renewal of the partnership between HSBC UK and The Prince's Trust, who have worked together since 2012. The charity helps young people develop skills.

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# Uncle and aunt will keep siblings together

"IT was an intense decision – but we had to step up and do what we could."

Those are the words of a selfless uncle who moved to the Black Country after a tragic double blow which saw his five nephews orphaned.

Gift Mpedzisi and his partner Ziyanda Mhambi quit their jobs and ended the lease on their home in Liverpool to start a new life in Tip-ton after Gift's five nephews were orphaned when their mother and father both died from cancer within five weeks of each other.

## Sister

Makeda Ubiaro – Gift's sister – died in July, with her husband Omena passing away at the start of September from the same disease.

In a heartbreaking video posted online from his hospital bed just days before his death, Mr Ubiaro said cancer was the 'toughest thing' he had ever had to face.

It left his sons Khariis, Josiah,

Cairo, Ramiyah and Macaiah facing a future without either of their parents and with the possibility they would be split up and taken into foster care.

But Gift, 33, and his 36-year-old Ziyanda partner decided to do whatever they could to allow the boys to stay together as a family unit.

That involved Gift quitting his degree at university in Liverpool and transferring to a criminology and law course at the University of Wolverhampton.

While Ziyanda, who is now pregnant, also left a full-time job to move south to look after the boys.

The couple have now been honoured with this year's Pride of Tip-ton award.

Gift explained: "They grew up together as a family. I didn't want them to be split up."

"We had to step up and do what we could. They needed somebody to look after them for their wellbeing and safeguarding."



Ziyanda Mhambi and Gift Mpedzisi with daughter Busi and nephews Khariis, Josiah, Macaiah and Ramiyah

# Vaccinations drive as more than 100 cases of measles confirmed

MORE than 100 cases of measles have been confirmed in the West Midlands prompting a fresh appeal for parents to keep youngsters up to date with vaccinations.

Since the end of October, there has been an ongoing outbreak of the disease, believed to be linked to similar situations in large parts of Europe including Italy and Romania. Public Health England says there is an increased risk of infection for all who are not fully immunised with two doses of MMR.

Uptake rates vary from 87 per cent of five-year-olds in Wolverhampton to 91.7 per cent in Staffordshire. While 88.7 per cent of youngsters in Sandwell have received both MMR vaccine doses compared with 89.5 per cent in Walsall and 92.2 per cent in Dudley.

Katie Spence, Director of PHE West Midlands Health Protection Team, said: "There are now just over 100 lab-confirmed cases in the region with figures still rising. There are also outbreaks in other parts of the country, so increased risk of infection for all who are not fully immunised with two doses of MMR."

"Measles is a highly infectious virus which can spread rapidly among communities, such as schools. While most people who catch measles will recover completely within a couple of weeks, it's important to remember measles can be a very serious illness that can leave permanent disability and occasionally even kill."

# No let up as police target gang members

POLICE officers have vowed not to let up in their fight against violent crime after gang members were jailed for more than 70 years.

A total of 10 people linked to gangs operating across Birmingham and the Black Country were handed jail terms totalling more than 70 years in the past two months.

Jamie Wood, from Wasdale Road, Northfield, who featured in grime videos made by South Birmingham gang the Frankley Killers, is the latest to be locked up after he received almost four years behind bars.

The 23-year-old's sentence comes after Organised Crime and Gang Unit detectives recovered film he had recorded on a mobile phone of a man firing a shotgun at the home of a rival gang member. He did not pull the trigger but was still sent to prison after officers showed that he orchestrated the attack.



Yusupha Sarr – fired shotgun

## Firefight

Earlier this month teenage gunman Yusupha Sarr was locked up for 15 years after being involved in a gangland firefight on a Smethwick street. The former professional footballer, aged 19 – linked to the Birmingham street gang 23 Drillas – fired a sawn-off shotgun twice as a man armed with a revolver ran towards him, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Armed police were nearby after being warned gang members would be attending an 18th birthday party held in the area and moved in to arrest Sarr, from Church Green in Handsworth, in August last year.

In February Jamaal Scarlett and Courtney Farrell were jailed for 16 and nine years, respectively, for possessing firearms and ammunition after detectives uncovered messages linking them with organised crime. Gang members Jamaal Ahmed and Reece Brevitt were also jailed, while a

16-year-old boy was sent to a young offenders institute for three years.

Chief Inspector Nick Dale said: "Many of these successes have been in part been thanks to information provided by members of the public who had suspicions about individuals, drug dealing or possession of weapons. They called us in confidence, we acted on what they told us and together we are helping to make communities safer."

"Many of these men were lured into gangs as teenagers. They are sold it as an attractive, lucrative way of life but many now see their lives wrecked by long prison sentences."

"We work with local authorities, support groups and charities to try and divert young people away from crime and gang affiliation but there are those who refuse to cooperate. They face the very real danger of being killed or seriously hurt by rivals or spending many years behind bars."

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# Precious gift of life for Michael



Michael cuddles with his grandson O'Shea

**THIS is the precious moment Michael Willis thought he would never live to see.**

Cradling little baby O'Shea just minutes after he was born, the jewellery maker cherished the first time he met his grandson.

Michael, who suffers from the rare lung condition sarcoidosis, had been told last year by doctors at City Hospital in Birmingham, he had six months to live – unless he underwent a double lung transplant.

Consultant respiratory physician Dr Arvind Rajasekaran was determined to save his patient, and so contacted the Royal Papworth Hospital, in Cambridge, in the hope they would assist in finding a donor, and be able to carry out the operation.

Within two months a suitable donor was found and Michael underwent the operation in June last year. Michael, aged 60, said: "I feel extremely grateful to the person who donated their lungs to me.

"It was a miracle for me and my family. I feel that I have been given a second chance and I need to make the most of it.

"Without the transplant, I would not have been able to see my great grandson, who was born in January. It was an amazing moment meeting baby O'Shea, and one I thought would never happen."

Michael added: "Before I had



With the City Hospital team which carried out the life-saving op

this condition, I was very healthy and I worked full time. Then all of a sudden I started showing symptoms of sarcoidosis.

"I struggled to move from one room to another, and I wasn't able to breathe very well. I felt exhausted taking just small steps. I even needed to use an electronic wheel-chair to go to the toilet.

"I feel enormously grateful to the support that I have received from my family, our friends, and our church community who have always been there for me. I am a very fortunate person, as I know it's not always easy to find a match, especially for people from the African Caribbean community like myself.

"I hope that my story will inspire more people to consider organ donation because it saves lives."

After his diagnosis, Michael had to use a non-invasive ventilator machine to keep him breathing as he slept.

The medical team at City Hospital tried every treatment they could to help Michael, but the last straw came when the dad collapsed at home in his bathroom. He had developed pneumonia.

Dr Rajasekaran said: "We knew that Michael's lungs couldn't cope with the condition anymore as he did not improve even after treating his infection, and that he desperately needed a double lung trans-



Michael seen suffering with the sarcoidosis lung condition

plant. Fortunately we were able to find a match for Michael and he had the operation in June," said the doctor, who has been inspired to join the donor register since treating Michael.

"It was a great collaboration between the two hospitals, and we hope to continue working with them more in the future.

"Without the transplant Michael could have died within six months. We were so pleased that his operation was a success and he is recovering remarkably well.

"He can now walk into my clinic and it really makes it all worthwhile to see how the operation has transformed his health. Since then

he has been receiving specialist treatment at home from our community respiratory service."

Dr Rajasekaran added: "An organ from someone of the same ethnic group is more likely to be a better match.

"Sadly, fewer people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups (BAME) agree to organ donation which means that people from these communities often wait longer for a transplant and are more likely to die before a suitable organ can be found.

"I really hope that Michael's story can inspire more people from the BAME to consider organ donation."



## Labour

**Working Hard for our Borough – All Year Round**

Cllr Pete Lowe, Leader of Dudley Labour Group Flying the Black Country Flag with pride



**We have a great Borough. We are the Borough that lit the fires of the Industrial Revolution and we continue to make a huge contribution to the West Midlands.**

We need a council and local councillors that will work hard and look after the interests of all our communities.

A Labour Council in Dudley will continue to build on the success when we were last in control such as securing the metro, regenerating our

towns, making education and skills the number one priority and continuing to support our fantastic tourist attractions which are some of the best in the West Midlands to attract more visitors and stimulate the economy.

**Our community led Labour Council will put you as residents at the heart of everything we do and won't let you down like the Tories and UKIP have.**

## A Clear Vision for Our Borough

**PUTTING COMMUNITIES FIRST**

A Labour Council will;

■ **REGENERATION AND TOURISM** Promote Dudley Borough as the historic capital of the Black Country to increase tourism and create jobs, including retaining all existing free parking and introducing free evening parking to boost the night time economy.

■ **ENVIRONMENT** Make full use of powers to enforce action against those who affect the quality of our environment, including fly tipping, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour and reinvest fines collected back into improving our streets.

■ **HOUSING** Take tough action against rogue landlords who put profit before people, increase social and affordable housing and implement the Housing First initiative in our communities to address the issues of homelessness and rough sleeping.

■ **WASTE COLLECTIONS** Retain weekly bin collections and free green waste collections and continue to increase the amount we recycle, protecting the environment for future generations.

■ **EDUCATION AND SKILLS** Establish Dudley as a centre of excellence for business, education and skills for all ages. We will also ensure all large contractors used by Dudley Council provide apprenticeships for young people.

■ **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE** Ensure health and social care providers adopt a joined up approach, providing support to whole communities, especially the most vulnerable, when needed.

■ **ROAD INVESTMENT** Establish and monitor a pot-hole reporting line and use available funds to repair speedily while lobbying for a fairer funding deal that will bring much needed investment to Dudley's crumbling road network.

# **X VOTE LABOUR ON THURSDAY 3RD MAY**

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## Cars targeted by thieves in flood

YOUTHS were spotted by firefighters trying to break into vehicles stranded in the severe flooding in Wednesbury last week.

It took place as crews worked to ensure people were safe as water levels rose due the dramatic water main burst in Leabrook Road. They were also reports of children throwing stones into the floodwater, close to where firefighters were working.

Around 60 firefighters, including specialist water rescue teams, rushed to the scene at around 10am on Thursday. Around 10 million litres of water – the same as four Olympic-sized swimming pools – turned streets into a lake up to 9ft deep after Western Power Distribution workers damaged the mains.

# Business bosses are concerned at proposal for travellers site

**BOSSSES have spoken out against plans to build a £280,000 travellers transit site near their firms.**

Dudley Council proposals would see the official travellers site created on Budden Road in Coseley, to help lower the number of illegal encampments. But the director of a neighbouring steel fabricating firm has said he was 'appalled'.

David Springthorpe, managing director of Angle Ring, said: "I am absolutely appalled that

as an immediate neighbour to the site we were not notified directly by Dudley Council about the planning application. I am certain that if as a company we applied for planning permission, and more than 50 local residents objected, then our planning application would be rejected."

### Criteria

Chris Hickman, director of South Staffordshire Industries, said: "The site does not satisfy Dudley Council's own selection criteria for a temporary travellers site. Their guidelines

clearly state 'sites on the edge of industrial or residential areas are preferred to sites in the middle of such areas' and the proposed site in Budden Road is surrounded by residential and commercial properties.

"During the mid-1990s we suffered increased crime and other issues when the site was used illegally by travellers and we certainly don't want a repeat of those events."

Dudley Council's Alan Lunt, a strategic director, said the council had been 'open and transparent' about plans to establish a transit site.

## Lakes look at driverless pods

SELF-DRIVING vehicles made in Dudley are being considered as a sustainable transport alternative for the Lake District.

A driverless 'pod' made by Kingswinford's Westfield Technology Group has been taken to Brockhole, between Ambleside and Windermere, as part of an exercise to gain public feedback.

The Lake District National Park is the first national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site to take part in such a feasibility study with Westfield. The park is exploring new technologies which allow people to access the national park in an environmentally sustainable way.

## Dan the banjo man has folk club gig



Banjo man Dan Walsh is coming to Kingswinford

ACCLAIMED banjo man Dan Walsh is coming to a Kingswinford folk club as part of a mammoth tour promoting the release of his Verging On The Perpendicular album.

BBC Folk Awards nominee Walsh's UK tour will see the launch of the all new Dan Walsh Trio – featuring award-winning fiddler Ciaran Algar and long-time collaborator Nic Zuppari on mandolin.

Although favourites the Stafford musician's highly-praised albums will be in the set, the gigs are to be mostly shaped around new material. At the heart of the trio's sound is British, Irish and American folk music delivered with a healthy dose of funky grooves.

Next Friday, May 11, he will be at the Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford. The show is at 8.30pm and tickets cost £8/£9. Call (01384) 560462 or go to [www.woodmanfolk.co.uk](http://www.woodmanfolk.co.uk) for tickets and details.

"It'll be a very lively show with lots of blistering tunes but also some more reflective moments and some new songs we're really pleased with," says Dan.

"I've been travelling all over this year and I spent the first two and a half months of the year on tour in Australia and New Zealand. It'll be great to be back home."

## Concerns raised over plans for new homes

CAMPAIGNERS fear disruption caused by new homes being built on sites in Tipton will impact people's quality of life.

Plans were backed recently by Sandwell Council for dozens of homes on three parcels of land in Princes End. But concerns were raised about the scheme with people claiming there has been a lack of consultation.

Councillors say the new homes are much needed in the area.

In total, 63 homes will be built on council-owned sites bordered by Strathmore Road, Kingsbury Road, Sandgate Road, Ridgeway Road and Henn Street.

One of piece of land was the site of Swancroft House and another was Glebefields House, both facilities for the elderly. These have both been cleared. The third site was grassed open space.

A decision will be made by the full council.

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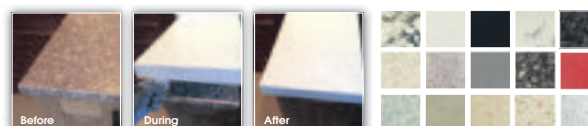
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G0977	King	2.5cm	£69.99	£99.99	G0971	King	5cm	£89.99	£134.99
G0972	Single with cover	2.5cm	£44.99	£79.99	G0966	Single with cover	5cm	£64.99	£109.99
G0973	Double with cover	2.5cm	£69.99	£99.99	G0967	Double with cover	5cm	£89.99	£139.99
G0974	King with cover	2.5cm	£79.99	£109.99	G0968	King with cover	5cm	£99.99	£154.99

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D7752	King	4.5	£27.99	£44.99
D7753	Super king	4.5	£29.99	£54.99
D5752	Single	10.5	£19.99	£32.99
D5753	Double	10.5	£29.99	£42.99
D5754	King	10.5	£32.99	£54.99
D5755	Super king	10.5	£34.99	£64.99
D5785	Pillow twin pack	-	£19.99	£29.99

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# Murder victim Nunes: Family lose payout case

**A MURDER victim's family have been refused a police payout despite failings in a botched investigation.**

Staffordshire Police force's insurers have turned down a claim made on behalf of Kevin Nunes' son with his family saying they have been 'left out in the cold' after two men acquitted of the murder were given £200,000.

The former Stafford Rangers player was found dead in a country lane in Pattingham where he had been gunned down.

Five men were convicted of the 20-year-old's death, but later acquitted after a report into detective wrongdoing and mishandling of a witness was not disclosed to the trial judge.

## Unsolved

Damages totalling £200,000 were paid to two of the four men - Antonio Christie, of Great Bridge and Levi Walker, of Edgbaston - who had their convictions of murder overturned.

Now 16 years on Kevin Nunes murder remains unsolved. His family said police failings in the case had caused more suffering for his 15-year-old son. But the claim for misfeasance in public office has been dismissed by the force's insurers.

Benjamin Williams, brother of Nunes' partner Leanne, said: "We want closure for his son who has suffered mentally from the acquittals and subsequent coverage of police failings in the case. It is not over, we will continue to push for a result. We believe the force should pay for the impact the failed case has had on his son."

"It is especially disappointing when settlements were agreed for some of those acquitted."



**Kevin Nunes - a formal review has been launched**

Nunes' partner Leanne, 34, lives with their son in the Black Country. She said: "I'm massively disappointed, on the basis that it just feels like everyone and anyone has been rewarded or compensated in some form, yet the victim's family have just been left in the cold."

The claim was based on alleged gross misconduct by retired Staffordshire Chief Constable Jane Sawyers, former Northamptonshire Chief Constable Adrian Lee, ex-Gloucestershire Chief Constable Suzette Davenport, and former West Midlands Assistant Chief Constable Marcus Beale. It said



**Nunes' former partner Leanne Williams and her brother Benjamin**

their alleged failings, and subsequent acquittals, had resulted in Nunes' son suffering psychological damage, including complex traumatic grief.

The case can still be pursued through court. In a letter, the force's solicitors Weightmans said: "Whilst we recognise that failings by Staffordshire Police have caused the claimant and members of his family considerable upset and distress, liability is denied."

This month, a formal review into the murder was launched by Merseyside Police. It will determine if the case can be re-investigated.

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The broken prop blade and the model given him by Miles Aircraft



The empty space where the engine should have been



The Messenger after its engineless landing



Robin Lindsay Neale stepping from the Defiant cockpit

# Test pilot to rescue as engine falls off

**WHAT** do you do if you are flying a light aircraft and the engine falls off? Well it helps if you are a highly-experienced test pilot.

Robin Lindsay Neale joined Boulton Paul Aircraft in Wolverhampton as a test pilot at the outbreak of war, living in Horden Road. He flew Defiants, Rocs, Barracudas, and sundry other aircraft from Pendeford Airfield. And when Chief Test Pilot, Cecil Feather retired at the end of the war Lindsay Neale took over.

## Holiday

The company was developing the Balliol advanced trainer, and Lindsay Neale gave it its first flight on May 30, 1947, then on June 28 he borrowed a Miles Messenger light aircraft and loaded his family for a holiday in the South of France, his wife, Rosemary, sister-in-law, Hazel, and children, Jenny and Jeff.

At about 8pm that day they were cruising across South East France near the town of Bait, with Lindsay Neale dozing in the front passenger seat, and Hazel, aged 19, flying the aircraft.

Suddenly there was a loud bang and the aircraft

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

reared up. Neale grabbed the controls and found he could not hold it level.

He ordered everyone to pile into the front seats, and pull the baggage, which luckily was packed in an old parachute bag, from behind the seats and stuffed it against the windscreen.

The two-blade wooden propeller had broken and one blade had flown off, then the massive out-of-balance force of the other had pulled the entire engine off the aircraft, there was nothing forward of the windscreen.

## Gravity

With everyone in the front seats the centre of gravity was a little more manageable, and with a piece of masterly flying Lindsay Neale was able to safely glide down and land in a small French field.

He kept the piece of broken propeller as a souvenir, and Miles aircraft gave him a model of the Messenger, which was a write-off.

Lindsay Neale returned to the development of the Balliol but unfortunately died, along with his assistant, Peter Tishaw, in a crash of the prototype at Coven on February 3, 1949



Robin Lindsay Neale leaning on the wing of a Defiant

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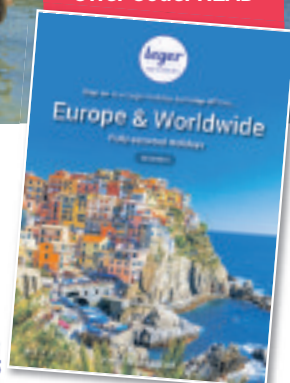
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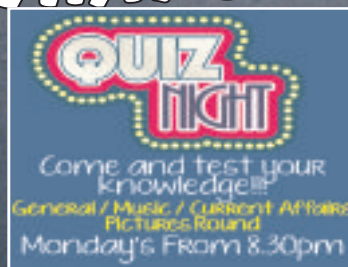
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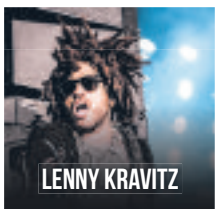
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# We're Crazy For an all-dancing musical

**Y**ou can't beat glorious Gershwin, and the composer has no greater fan than Tom Chambers, who's fulfilling a teenage dream by starring in the musical Crazy For You.

By the time the curtain came down on a production of Crazy For You in the early 1990s, the then-15-year-old Tom Chambers knew his heart lay in performing. "It was the very first live musical I ever saw on stage and it just filled me with so much entertainment and wonder. It was amazing to see what they did with the theatre space and how the story was told. It was the only bit of theatre which truly inspired me."

In a career which has featured a number of crazy twists of fate as well as some fantastic roles, Tom is relishing the chance to recapture that teenage dream and play the lead role in the production, which plays Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday until May 12.

He plays Bobby, a banker sent to close down a failing theatre who falls for the daughter of the building's proprietor. Determined to win her heart, he adopts the guise of a Hungarian impresario in order to save the theatre and win her heart.

And so, the stage is set for an all-singing, all-dancing story set to a Gershwin soundtrack which includes the likes of They Can't Take That Away From Me, Bidin' My Time and, of course, I've Got Rhythm.

Tom admits he always had a bit of a performing instinct from rattling his feet on the kitchen floor at home from a very young age, and then enjoying watching black-and-white films starring the likes of Gene Kelly. But it was a school play that saw him tread the boards for the first time.

He laughs: "I was playing football during a school break and the English teacher, who was directing the play, said no-one had auditioned for it so there was a compulsory three o'clock audition. I ended up getting the title role in Dracula Spectacular. I loved that relationship recognition between the audience and I. It was fantastic making them respond."

Drama school followed which included a stint understudying Keith Chegwin in the pantomime Cinderella at Basingstoke ("It is one of my claims to fame"), and his first job after leaving was a Spanish TV ad for Kit Kat. Tom says: "I thought this is great. I am going to get non-stop work," but things did not quite work out like that. He had to turn down a role in The Bill because they needed an HGV driver although Tom has now got his Class One lorry-driving licence in common with Chris Eubank.

And when he turned down a role in the tour of Bob The Builder, his agent fired him leaving him in a quandary about what to do next. He enjoyed some success with the movie Fakers which was privately financed and enjoyed a limited cinema release but the work was drying up.

So, he took one final shot at success by aiming to get onto the Royal Variety Performance in the days before Britain's Got Talent and YouTube. He said: "I wrote a letter suggesting I do a Fred Astaire routine on a drum kit and I thought that might appeal, with me tap dancing and kicking drums at the same time. They said get it ready and I spent nine-and-a-half months doing just that. A

Putting on the glitz – Claire Sweeney and Tom Chambers



few weeks beforehand, they then got in touch and said we now have everyone we need. We don't want you, which was a blow.

"So I got in touch with my old school and asked if I could perform it on their stage in the holidays and I got it filmed in black and white. I had 1,000 DVDs made of it sending 400 to America and sent 600 out in this country to theatre owners, directors and TV producers asking if they were doing anything connected to Fred Astaire and, if so, could I have a chat?"

Only two people came back. One was a theatre producer organising a one-night Fred and Ginger tribute, while Tom said the other was an audition for BBC medical drama Holby City. "The producers just thought it was so unusual. They were looking for someone to play an American doctor for two episodes. As Fred Astaire was American, they thought I was too and wanted to get me in. I went to the audition and they said 'where have you been all these years?'"

From there he won the part of Sam Strachan in the hit sister show to Casualty staying in the role for three years as the fiercely-driven doctor who also had a bit of a roving eye.

And it was his role on there that led him into Strictly Come Dancing where he partnered Camilla Dallerup, winning the coveted glitterball. Looking back on his time on the Saturday night TV hit, he admits a lot of it is a blur. Tom explains: "People ask if I can do a quick step or a samba. I have to explain that I had a five-day intense workout on each of those routines. It is such a quick short-term memory injection and that is

*Bit like Strictly with everything slotting into place in the right order*

it. It was a bit like doing a marathon. You do step-by-step doing a couple of miles at a time and you look back and you don't know how you did it. It is the same with Strictly. Your body naturally gets used to physical exertion and a daily workout but it is the brain that suffers most because of trepidation, fear and anxiety. You are just learning so much. You just go in front of the cameras and the audience and give it your all. I look back now. If I watch anything online of one of our dances, I am looking at it as if I am watching someone else. At the time, you are performing, your brain is just in flight mode."

And now it is Crazy For You which is set to take up the rest of his year. "I think Crazy For You has the absolutely perfect balance of humour, story and singing. There are so many musicals that are heavy on just one element but this show has the perfect combination of everything. It is a bit like the show dance on Strictly with everything slotting into place in the right order." **ANDY RICHARDSON**

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Singer-songwriter Don McLean



## My my it's Mr American Pie at Symphony Hall

PROLIFIC American songwriter Don McLean will visit Birmingham's Symphony Hall next Thursday, May 10, as part of a 14-date UK tour with Nashville star, Jarrod Dickenson.

The show follows the release of McLean's new album 'Botanical Gardens' in March.

With more than 40 gold and platinum records worldwide, Don McLean is one of America's most beloved singer-songwriters. Botanical Gardens, his 19th studio album and first in eight years, is arguably one of his most reflective to date.

Don says: "The inspiration for the project started years ago when I would walk in the beautiful gardens in Sydney, Australia, near the Opera House. I would dream young dreams and it was a comfort and an

inspiration. I was always young inside, like we all are, and I felt it again there."

In nearly 50 years on the scene, Don's songs have become a staple in Americana music. His music has been performed by artists as diverse as Elvis Presley, Madonna, Fred Astaire, Chet Atkins, Weird Al Yankovick, George Michael, Josh Groban, Coolio and Ed Sheeran. His biggest hit 'American Pie' was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2003.

Joining Don on tour by request is Jarrod Dickenson. The Nashville-based, Texas-born musician has already supported acts ranging from Bonnie Raitt to The Stylistics, and he counts himself among McLean's fans, saying: "His contribution to popular music and the craft of song writing can't be overstated."

## McIntyre is making merry on world tour



He's become one of the most popular British comics of all time.

Michael McIntyre will return to Birmingham for his latest run of shows - Big World Tour - with dates at the city's Arena from next Thursday, May 10, to May 13.

The star has already sold more than 1.5 million tickets in the UK.

By 2012 he was the highest grossing comedian in the world and, in addition to stand-up, has hosted his own BBC One TV shows, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and Michael McIntyre's Big Show, has featured in Live at

the Apollo and, in 2011, was a judge on Britain's Got Talent.

He is looking forward to getting back on stage. "I'm so excited about it. Stand-up comedy is what I do, and it's so rewarding," he says. "If you write a joke and tell it to an audience of 15,000 people who laugh their heads off at it, it's the best feeling in the world."

"This is comedy. We are trying to make people laugh here. So, let's be really silly for two hours. That's where I come in."

"My show is about silliness and exaggerated stories. I like jokes where people don't stop laughing. I want that all the time."

"I don't just like to use punchlines anymore, especially in arenas. They freak me out. There is nothing worse than 15,000 people waiting for a punchline. You're standing there thinking, 'I hope I remember the punchline.' But once you start to think that, you immediately forget it."

"I prefer getting into that sense of rolling laughter. When you get that right, there's no better feeling. I used to be daunted by the prospect of performing in an arena. But having played so many arenas now, I can see that there is something rather magical about them."

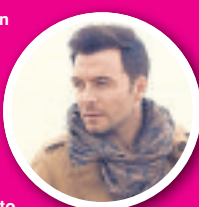
## Joe's mischief makes his tour a comedy hit

With sell out nights across the country it's safe to say that Birmingham comic Joe Lycett's latest tour - splendidly named I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett - is a huge success. His laconic skewering of pomposity and humourless officialdom via email battles has certainly struck a chord. The Hall Green comedian can expect a warm home welcome at the New Alexandra Theatre on May 10 and 11, before returning to his home region at a sold out Dudley Town Hall on September 7. He has additional dates on November 12 and 27 at Symphony Hall and Wolverhampton's Aldersley Leisure Village on November 26. There is comedy this week with those Grumpy Old Women - Jenny Eclair, Dillie Keane and Lizzie Roper - on Wednesday, May 9, at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

## Love Always a success for Shane

Westlife singer Shane Filan is back, fresh from the success of his hugely successful Love Always tour in autumn 2017 and will be in concert at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday. Shane says:

"Birmingham has such an amazing crowd, I just had to perform here again. In fact, the whole tour went so well I thought I would love to take it back out. It was such fun and the fans have taken Love Always to their hearts. I may be adding a few surprises to make this leg a little different."



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**Alice Roberts**  
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 Alice Roberts tells the story of the Regency period by studying the history of Cheltenham, Britain's most Regency town. She attends a period society ball, investigates the rigid social hierarchy of the age and explores the Regency fondness for enemas. The penultimate episode of the series in which Alice Roberts studies one key period in history by delving into the secrets of a historic town that encapsulates the era, providing an accurate impression of what life was really like at key moments in the turbulent past.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure.** (R) **12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News: Weather.** **1.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **2.15 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** The opening semi-final is set to come to a conclusion. **4.10 BBC News.** **4.20 Regional Programme.** **4.30 Final Score.** **5.10 Live Women's FA Cup Football.** Arsenal Women v Chelsea Ladies (Kick-off 5.30pm).  
**7.40 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous children's TV presenters take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. The contestants are Timmy Mallett, Bernard Cribbins, Andy Crane, Jenny Hanley, Michaela Strachan, Janet Ellis, JB Gill and Cat Sandion.  
**8.30 Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as many facts they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up.  
**9.15 Casualty.** Connie Beauchamp returns and wastes no time in reasserting her authority, taking over the care of a patient in resus and pitching her idea for a trauma theatre to a sceptical Charlie. Ethan visits the spot where Cal died to pay his respects, and he unexpectedly sees Leigh-Anne – the girlfriend of his brother's murderer. A number of staff members come in to work hungover following a housewarming party at Alicia's new house.  
**10.05 BBC News:** Weather.; National Lottery Update.  
**10.25 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches.  
**11.45 The Button.** Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R)  
**12.15 Film:** When in Rome. (2009) **1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.45 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities.** (R) **6.40 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.** (R) **7.10 The Pets Factor.** **7.30 The Designers.** **8.00 Absolute Genius: Monster Builds.** **8.30 Beyond Bionic.** **9.00 Robot Wars.** (R) **10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** **1.10 Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge.** (R) **2.10 Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge.** (R) **3.10 Love in the Countryside.** (R) **4.10 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** The opening semi-final is set to come to a conclusion.  
**6.00 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes.** Award-winning architect Piers Taylor and actress and property enthusiast Caroline Quentin explore extraordinary homes built in mountain, forest, coastal and underground locations around the world, meeting the owners and architects brave enough to take the challenges on. (R)  
**7.00 Dad's Army.** A land mine cuts off all power and communications services in Walmington-on-Sea, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the challenge by declaring martial law – while Pike gets stuck on some iron railings. Vintage comedy first broadcast in 1974, starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. (R)  
**7.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. Barry Hawkins has been one of the most consistent performers at the Crucible in recent years, reaching the final in 2013 and the semi-finals on three other occasions, although The Hawk lost at this stage in 2017 to four-time champion John Higgins.  
**10.00 Film: Kajaki.** (2014) A group of paratroopers are pushed to their limits while trying to find a safe route out of a minefield in Afghanistan. Fact-based thriller, starring David Elliot.  
**11.40 Michael Palin: A Life on Screen.** The actor and writer looks back on his career. Featuring classic clips from the archives and contributions from collaborators John Cleese, David Jason and Armando Iannucci. (R)  
**12.40 Film:** Easy Money II. (2012) **2.15 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Sooty. **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.45 Super 4.** (R) **6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures.** (R) **7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show.** (R) **7.30 Teen Titans Go!** (R) **7.45 Adventure Time.** **8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Zoe Ball on Saturday.** **9.25 James Martin's Saturday Morning.** **11.20 Invitation to a Royal Wedding.** (R) **12.20 ITV News: Weather.** **12.30 This Time Next Year.** (R) **1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket.** Including the 3.35 Pipco 2,000 Guineas Stakes. **4.00 Tipping Point.** (R) **5.00 The Chase.** (R)  
**6.00 ITV News: Weather.**  
**6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.**  
**6.30 Ninja Warrior UK.** Gethin Jones, Jenni Falconer and Josh Cuthbert test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.  
**7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Jordan Stephens, Janet Street-Porter, Alex Brooker and Una Stubbs are tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion in the comedy panel show.  
**8.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the fourth addition round of the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams. Whomever the quartet choose to send through to the live stages will then be in with a chance of winning a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance later this year, following in the footsteps of 2017 winner Tokio Myers.  
**9.15 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** New series. Jeremy Clarkson hosts the first in a special week-long revival of the quiz celebrating its 20th anniversary, with contestants answering questions to win up to £1million.  
**10.20 ITV News: Weather.**  
**10.35 Film: Sex and the City 2.** (2010) Comedy sequel, with Sarah Jessica Parker and Kristin Davis.  
**1.15 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Babushka.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Motor Sport: British GT.** **7.10 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.35 The King of Queens.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** (R) **3.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** (R) **4.30 Collection Hunters.** **5.35 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** (R)  
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 The Restoration Man: Best Builds.** George Clarke looks back at four of the most dramatic tower conversions from the show. A pair of railway enthusiasts took on a derelict water tower on the Settle to Carlisle line, while a couple battled illness to turn a Georgian windmill into a family home. There's also another chance to see how a 17th-century fortified structure in Scotland and a Grade II-listed water tower near Congleton in Cheshire were transformed. (R)  
**8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns.** Alice Roberts tells the story of the Regency period by studying the history of Cheltenham, Britain's most Regency town, investigating the rigid social hierarchy of the age.  
**9.00 Film: Zoolander 2.** (2016) Premiere. Dim-witted supermodels Derek Zoolander and Hansel McDonald must step back into the spotlight and save the day when a maniacal villain starts murdering some of the world's most beautiful pop stars. Comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, with Penelope Cruz, Will Ferrell and Kristen Wiig.  
**11.00 Film: Ride Along.** (2014) A wannabe police officer persuades his girlfriend's tough detective brother to take him along on duty. The cop hopes to scare his unwanted partner away from his sister by exposing him to danger - but needs some help when the patrol leads to a run-in with the city's most wanted criminal. Comedy, starring Ice Cube, Kevin Hart and Laurence Fishburne.  
**12.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R) **1.40 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.50 Come Dine Champion of Champions.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.40 The Gadget Show.** (R) **11.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.25 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.25 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.25 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **3.20 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **4.20 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R) **5.20 Bad Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R)  
**6.15 5 News Weekend.**  
**6.20 Rich House, Poor House.** Colin and Lizzy Whiting, who find themselves in the wealthiest 10 percent of Britain, swap their five-bedroom house near Newquay to spend a week living in a two-bed property where the Timmins family live. The Timmins on the other hand, are among the poorest 10 percent in the country, and survive on a tenth of the weekly budget the Withings have. (R)  
**7.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** In east London, High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Phil are involved in a brothel eviction, while in south Wales, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt owed by a working mum. (R)  
**8.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Paul Bohill and Phil Short must deal with a negligent tenant who fled upon their arrival, forcing the agents to set a trap in order to evict him. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Kevin Stokes chase a debt of £5,000 in Kent, before heading to Surrey to recover £11,000 owed by the owner a bespoke furniture business. Plus, Paul and Steve Pinner's patience is tested to the limit when they are sent to carry out an eviction in London. (R)  
**9.15 Secrets of Tutankhamun's Treasures.** The origins of the Egyptian pharaoh's iconic death mask, examining theories that many of the items he was buried with were hurriedly assembled after his unexpected death.  
**10.10 The Great Ramesses: New Evidence Revealed.** New series. Series exploring famous people and places of ancient Egypt, beginning with Ramesses II, who led his people to victory against the Hittites and was declared a living god.  
**11.10 Football on 5: Last Day of the Season.** Colin Murray introduces highlights.  
**12.10 SuperCasino.** **4.00 Billionaire Babies:** 24 Carat Kids. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Nature's Epic Journeys **8.00** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **9.00** Salamander: Blood Diamonds **10.35** and of the Lost Wolves **11.35** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.05** An Evening with Glen Campbell **1.25** Nature's Epic Journeys **2.25** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **3.25** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.35** Britain's Got More Talent **12.35** Ninja Warrior UK **1.40** Film: Babe (1995) **2.40** FYI Daily **2.45** Film: Babe (1995) **3.30** Film: Twister (1996) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35** Film: Twister (1996) **5.40** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **6.40** FYI Daily **6.45** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Plebs **1.55** CelebAbility **2.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**11.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.00** Film: Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder (1978) **3.00** Film: Casablanca (1942) **5.00** Midsummer Murders **11.05** Vera **1.05** Stephen Fry's Key to the City **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**11.20** Cycling **11.55** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **1.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the third stage of the men's race from Richmond to Scarborough. **6.00** Paym Stars **7.00** The Motorbike Show **8.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **9.00** Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **11.45** Film: The Fugitive (1993) **12.45** FYI Daily **12.50** Film: The Fugitive (1993) **2.20** The Protectors **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.00** The Goldbergs **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.00** Young Sheldon **3.30** Film: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Transporter (2002) **10.50** Gogglebox **11.55** The Inbetweeners **1.00** Tattoo Fixers **2.05** Rude Tube **3.05** Gogglebox **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Magic in the Water (1995) **1.00** Anastasia (1997) **2.55** Arriety (2010) **4.50** Home Alone (1990) **6.55** Taxi (2004) **9.00** Crimson Peak (2015) **11.15** Goat (2016) **1.20** Shutter Island (2010) **4.00** Close

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## CHOICE



Liam Charles (right)

**Bake Off: The Professionals**  
(Channel 4, 8pm)

New series. Professional duos from across the UK go head to head, aiming to impress judges and celebrated pastry chefs Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin, and progress to the next round. In the first episode, the teams must finely craft two batches of uniform miniature classics - 24 conversations and 24 tartes aux fruits - in just three and a half hours. This is followed by the Showpiece, in which the reinvention of the Black Forest gâteau is required in five hours. Presented by former Bake Off contestant Liam Charles and comedian Tom Allen.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Britain's Best Home Cook. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

**6.00** **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles present the final from Chatham's historic dockyards, where the artists must paint a self-portrait for their first challenge. The finalists then receive individual masterclasses in the areas coaches Diana Ali and Pascal Annon feel they need help, which involves everything from painting with rollers to scheduled blindfolded. In the final round, the contestants have a free hand to paint whatever they choose to impress judges Daphne Todd and Lachlan Goudie, before one of them is named this year's winner. Last in the series.

**7.00** **Countryfile.** Anita Rani is put through her paces with a Mountain Rescue team in Rothbury, Northumberland, hearing how new technology is helping search-and-rescue operations in the local area.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Helmingham Hall in Suffolk, where experts examine a medieval sword found in a pond, an Indian jewel and a collection of decorative boxes.

**9.00** **The Woman in White.** Marian overhauls Percival and Fosco conspiring to seize Laura's inheritance after her death.

**10.00** BBC News.

**10.20** Regional Programme.

**10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring highlights of Manchester City v Huddersfield Town, Arsenal v Burnley and Chelsea v Liverpool.

**11.35** **Reggie Yates: Life and Death in Chicago.** The broadcaster travels to Chicago to investigate gun crime in President Obama's adopted hometown to find out why so many of the victims are young African-American men. (R)

**12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead.

**12.40** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.05** Coast. (R) **6.35** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.20** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **7.50** Countryfile. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.30** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.00** MOTD2 Extra. **12.30** Badminton Horse Trials. Coverage of the fifth and final day of the event. **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre. **5.30** Badminton Horse Trials. Further coverage of the fifth and final day of the event.

**6.00** **Athletics: Diamond League Doha Highlights.** Gabby Logan presents action from the opening Diamond League event of the season, held at the Hamad Bin Suhaim Stadium in Doha, Qatar. The women's 100m was scheduled to feature Olympic champion Elaine Thompson of Jamaica, along with Dutch 200m world champion Dafne Schippers.

**7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. John Higgins looked set to open up an imposing lead over Mark Selby during the second session of last year's final, but the Jester from Leicester took the last three frames of the evening to trail 10-7 heading into the final day. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry, along with Alan McManus and John Virgo. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**11.00** **Famalam.** Comedy sketch show.

**11.20** **Live at the Apollo.** Henning Wehn hosts tonight's show, which features performances from Lucy Porter and Guz Khan. (R)

**12.05** **Film: Easy Money III: Life Deluxe.** (2013) A criminal searches for his missing sister, while another prepares for the biggest heist of his career. Crime thriller sequel, starring Joel Kinnaman and Matias Varela. **2.05** **Sign Zone: Question Time.** Topical debate from St Albans, Hertfordshire, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R) **3.05** **Holby City.** Fletch clashes with Abigail. (R) **4.05** **This Is BBC Two.**

## ITV

**6.00** CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **8.25** ITV News: Garden. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **12.15** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Including the 3.35 Qipco 1000 Guineas Stakes. **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase Celebrity Special. (R)

**6.00** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Jordan Stephens, Janet Street-Porter, Alex Brooker and Una Stubbs are tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion in the comedy panel show. (R)

**6.30** **ITV News: Weather.**

**6.45** **Regional Programme: Weather.**

**7.00** **Little Big Shots.** Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring a street dance crew, a nine-year-old boy who knows everything there is to know about Eurovision, and a world champion hen racer.

**8.00** **The Durrells.** The family meets a travelling circus. Larry falls in love with a contortionist, while Margo takes to the ring in person to perform a very dangerous act. Last in the series.

**9.00** **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** Jeremy Clarkson hosts the second edition in a special revival of the quiz to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Six more contestants compete in Fastest Finger First, to see who will sit in the hot seat and have the chance to take home the £1million jackpot. As always, the players have three lifelines - Ask the Audience, Phone a Friend and 50:50 - at their disposal.

**10.05** **ITV News: Weather.**

**10.20** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine. (R)

**11.20** **The Royal Wives of Windsor.** Part one of two. Documentary exploring how the women who have married into the house of Windsor over the last century have transformed one of the most famous dynasties in the world. (R)

**12.15** **The Royal Wives of Windsor.** (R) **1.05** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.40** MSA British Rally Championship. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Cat the Week. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** **Film: Megamind.** (2010) Animated superhero comedy, with the voice of Will Ferrell. **4.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News.

**6.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Fresh from the success of hosting a three-day wedding at the chateau, Dick and Angel make business plans for the grounds, intending to charge people to fish in the moat and forage in the woods. Angel starts work on a second guest suite, but also wants to install an elevator, which pushes Dick's engineering skills to the limit. (R)

**7.00** **The Crystal Maze.** Richard Ayoade guides an AC/DC tribute band from Newcastle through the Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Future zones, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges. Last in the series.

**8.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** New series. Professional duos from across the UK go head to head, aiming to impress celebrated pastry chefs Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin, and progress to the next round.

**9.00** **Homeland.** Carrie and Saul's mission does not go as planned. Elizabeth Keane fights for her presidency. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Marvel. Last in the series.

**10.15** **Walter Presents: Tabula Rasa.** Belgian crime drama about a woman with amnesia who becomes a key figure in a missing persons case, and must recover her memories to prove her innocence. Starring Veerle Baetens.

**11.15** **Film: Transporter 3.** (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham and Natalya Rudakova.

**1.10** **Film: Ruston.** (2016) **3.40** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.05** Gillette World Sport. **4.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.50** Gok's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moly. (R) **6.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.05** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.30** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.35** Rusty Rivets. **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.45** Floogals. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Great Birmingham 10K Run. **12.00** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **12.30** **Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective.** (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **2.05** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **3.05** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **4.05** Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups. (R) **5.05** 5 News. **5.10** The Adele Story. (R)

**6.30** **Britain's Favourite Abba Songs.** A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, as voted for by their fans, with celebrities including singers Jane McDonald, Claire Richards and Liz McAlarnon and former Blue Peter presenters Janet Ellis and Peter Duncan introducing their favourite clips. Featuring rare footage of the band, fascinating facts, and the stories of people who have turned their homes into shrines to the four-piece, a woman who named her daughter Abba, and a lady who learned Swedish just to get closer to her heroes. (R)

**8.00** **Eurovision Greatest Hits.** **9.00** **When Eurovision Goes Horribly Wrong.** Angela Rippon presents a guide to the song contest's most disastrous moments. Featuring contributions from past acts including Dana, Sonia, Cheryl Baker and Jay Aston of Bucks Fizz, Lindsay Dracass, Belle & the Devotions, the Brotherhood of Man, Scooch, Nicki French, Andy Abraham, Kate Robbins and Danish singer Birthe Wilke, who recalls the kiss that ruined her chances in 1957.

**11.55** **Football on 5: Last Day of the Season.** Colin Murray introduces highlights of the final round of regular-season Championship fixtures, including Sunderland v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Millwall v Aston Villa.

**12.50** **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Tribal Teens. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** Civilisations Stories: Treasures of the Bronze Age **8.00** Dancing in the Blitz: How World War Two Made British Ballet **9.00** Ballet's Dark Knight - Sir Kenneth MacMillan **10.00** Michael Clark's To a Simple Rock 'n' Roll - Song **10.55** Duet **11.00** Rich Hall's California Stars **12.30** Science and Islam **1.30** Dancing in the Blitz: How World War Two Made British Ballet **2.30** Ballet's Dark Knight - Sir Kenneth MacMillan **3.30** Close

## ITV2

**12.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **2.05** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **3.55** Britain's Got Talent **5.10** Britain's Got More Talent **6.10** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Film: Saw (2004) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30** Film: Saw (2004) **2.30** Teleshopping

## ITV3

**11.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.10** Blue Murder **2.25** Liverpool **1.30** Road to Avonlea **4.55** George and Mildred **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

## ITV4

**12.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. **5.30** Prawn Stars **6.55** Mr Bean **8.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **9.00** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **11.05** Film: The Bank Job (2008) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: The Bank Job (2008) **1.20** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **2.15** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

## E4

**11.30** The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** Film: Evolution (2001) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Young Sheldon **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.10** Film: Magic Mike (2012) **1.25** The Big Bang Theory **2.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.10** Rude Tube **3.40** Hollyoaks

## Film4

**1.00** Capture the Flag (2015) **2.50** The Boxtrolls (2014) **4.40** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **6.50** The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992) **1.45** Fright Night (1985) **4.00** Close



Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell  
Dip CDT RCSI(Eng) GDC 108353 with his  
thrilled patient Theresa Reardon

## Predictably reassuring

**WHEN** Theresa Reardon from London set out on a mission to fix a longstanding dental problem she never imagined it would take a lifetime's search before finding the answer . . . in Dudley.

Even a trip as a dental tourist to a Budapest clinic delivered only disappointment.

Remarkably, she never lost hope that one day she'd stumble upon a happy clinical outcome, despite decades of false dawns.

"I was determined to find an answer and I found Mr Steven Burchell at the Denture Clinic," she declares.

Her breakthrough came eight years ago while looking after a doctor in Wolverhampton, but never realised a story she was reading in the local newspaper would have such an impact on her daily living.

The devout Catholic from County Cork in southern Ireland, who moved to London when she was 25, adds: "I'd come to Wolverhampton and in a quiet moment was reading the free paper, The Chronicle. I saw a story there about a lady who couldn't eat properly and how Steven had sorted her out, so I kept the cutting."

Eight years passed before she was prompted to look at the article again after her denture prescription from the Hungarian capital broke.

"I read it over and over again, booked an appointment, got on the train and made my way to Dudley," she recalls.

Theresa suffered all her denture life with a protruding lower bite where the bottom teeth are more prominent than the upper.

This can sometimes make chewing difficult and patients self-conscious. My bottom dentures were so unstable my diet was always restricted," she says.

Staff at the clinic in North Street were shocked to learn she had travelled alone to her appointment and was returning to her Golders Green apartment in London the same day.

## I'll have steak

"Nothing was going to stop me," she added. "The teeth I'd been made ten years before in Budapest were useless and they hurt like hell. My new ones don't hurt at all and for the very first time my top teeth can come over my bottom teeth."

On the day her new prescription was fitted she decided to celebrate with a meal out at the Miller & Carter steakhouse in Penn.

"I was advised to take it gently, but my teeth felt so good I thought I'll have a steak," she says. It was the first time Theresa could tackle such a "difficult meal". With schoolgirl laughter she adds: "I loved it. It was worth waiting for."

Admitting to a regular tippie of red wine, she's determined to carry on celebrating her new teeth and making the best of her restored confidence.

"I may even manage the odd glass of sherry," she jokes. "It's been a long time coming and I'm so grateful that I don't have to put my hand over my mouth any more."

I was always afraid to smile, but now . . .

look at me, all thanks to Steven."

Theresa's problems began when at 18 she took at job as a doctor's receptionist in Cork. She was advised to have a full clearance after gum disease was diagnosed.

"The bite on every set of teeth I had was never right until now," she says.

Theresa left Cork with two other girls to stay with an order of nuns in Harrow.

"I was helping at a nursing home. The Reverend Mother sent my two friends back home but encouraged me to apply for a job with the Queen's Household and I worked as a deputy catering supervisor at Buckingham Palace."

Reflecting on her colourful life, she adds in a beautifully musical Cork accent: "Every year I get a Christmas card from the Queen."

## ADVERTISEMENT

L O N D O N  
B U D A P E S T  
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Above: Theresa's new corrected smile  
Below: Her badly fitting and painful old dentures



## A newspaper cutting finally ends dental tourist's quest for smile

## FILM CHOICES

## MONDAY

## Notting Hill, ITV, 10.20pm

A recently divorced bookshop owner finds love with a glamorous Hollywood film star, but ends up the focus of unwanted media interest - which makes maintaining a relationship a tricky proposition. Romantic comedy written by Richard Curtis, starring Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts, Rhys Ifans, Emma Chambers, James Dreyfus and Gina McKee. (1999)

## TUESDAY

## Snatched At Birth, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A grieving woman develops an unhealthy obsession with having a child. When her best friend gives birth, and then dies in a car accident, the newborn goes missing. Thriller, starring Kaitlyn Black, David Gallagher and Alexandra Paul. (2017)

## WEDNESDAY

## Driven Off the Rails, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A married woman loses her memory after an accident, but when her memory returns, she believes she has had an affair with a missing man. Drama, starring Hannah Barefoot. (2017)



Buried, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

## The Quiet Ones, Channel 4, 2am

An academic scientist recruits a group of Oxford students for a strange experiment, performing a series of tests on a woman in the hope of tapping into her apparent psychic abilities and deliberately manifesting a poltergeist. However, they soon find they are unable to control the dark forces they unleash. Horror, starring Jared Harris and Sam Claflin. (2014)

## THURSDAY

## Sinister Stepmother, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A divorcee is surprised to learn her ex-husband has married a younger woman - and even more surprised to discover her dark past. Thriller, with Annie Wersching. (2017)

## FRIDAY

## Buried, BBC1, 11.55pm

A man buried alive in the Iraqi desert tries to organise a rescue before he runs out of air - but even he does not know where he is. Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds. (2010)

## Peter and Sian are back in the driving seat once again

Sometimes, the best ideas tend to be the most simple.

Take Peter Kay's Car Share, for example. It was inspired by the Alfred Molina and Dawn French sitcom Roger & Val Have Just Got In, which focused on a couple spending time chatting about their day having returned home from work.

Co-creator Paul Coleman had previously worked with Kay on Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere, so he approached him with the idea of two people travelling to and from their workplace by car.

Kay brought in his old friend Sian Gibson (they had met as students at Salford University), and the rest is history.

Kay plays supermarket assistant manager John, who picks up colleague Kayleigh every day, initially as part of a new work scheme. At the start, they barely know each other, but as the weeks go by and they chat while travelling or stuck in traffic, they gradually become close friends.

"The idea of two people car-sharing to work each day really appealed to me, as it highlights the comedy in the minutiae of the daily trek and allows the spiralling conversations of life to unwind in all of their glory," said Kay ahead of the first series.

Clearly the great British public agreed, because the sitcom was an instant success when the first series was originally made available via the BBC iPlayer in 2015; it went on to become the platform's most-watched series to be released as a box set.

A second run aired last year, with John and Kayleigh growing ever-closer. The run ended as she declared her love for him before storming out of the car when he failed to reciprocate.

Kay claimed that was the end of the entire project - but fans were up in arms. How could two such popular characters be left dangling in mid-air? Some folk even began a petition in the hope of persuading him to change his mind, collecting

around 100,000 signatures in the process. Thankfully Kay announced he had relented during an appearance with Gibson on Children in Need last November.

"We were completely overwhelmed by the response and even though we've no plans to write a third series we knew we couldn't end the story there," claims Kay.

Shane Allen, the BBC's controller of comedy commissioning, adds: "This new finale is going to be the TV comedy equivalent of The Space Landing, Who Shot JR? or The Olympics Opening Ceremony depending on how old you are."

The final episode, written by Coleman, Gibson and Kay, is yet to come, but preceding it is this completely unscripted tale.

"We were always very fond of ad libbing around the script when we were filming the series," reveals Kay. "So we decided to see what would happen if we took the script away and just relied on just our chemistry alone, reacting to whatever came on the radio."



Peter Kay's Car Share Unscripted, Monday, BBC1, 10pm

## BEST OF THE REST

duck farm run by a couple who used to work in the haulage business.

## WEDNESDAY

## The Secret Life of the Zoo

## Channel 4, 8pm

Chester Zoo's penguins move into a temporary home while a new luxury home is built for them, but the move becomes upsetting when malaria sweeps the colony, with elder Rudd battling to survive against the odds. Meanwhile, the African painted dog pups venture out of their den for the first time, but the runt of the litter Mosi refuses to go out into the cold, and keepers worry she may have issues with her eyesight. Elsewhere, Sumatran orangutan Emma gives birth, and a beetle with a wonky horn has to fight other bachelors in the group to win the attention of a female.

## Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

## BBC1, 9pm

In the final episode of the series, Hugh turns his attention to junk food marketing techniques, and compares them to the amount that is spent on marketing for

vegetables and healthy eating alternatives. Hugh also heads to a Conservative Party Conference, where he has been invited to speak about obesity, but is frustrated in his attempts to get an audience with Jeremy Hunt. Elsewhere, with the help of Jamie Oliver, he comes up with a bold plan to try and improve the health of the nation.

## THURSDAY

## Britain's Best Home Cook

## BBC1, 8pm

Claudia Winkleman presents week two of the culinary contest, which sees the cooks create their ultimate fish dish, with accompaniments designed to showcase their individual personality. They must then invent a sweet or savoury meal with squash or rice as the key ingredient, before an anxious wait to hear who has to cook again. This week, judges Mary Berry, Dan Doherty and Chris Bavin have chosen a tricky dessert that requires precision - but



Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

who will make it through the elimination round and who will be hanging up their apron?

## FRIDAY

## The One Show: NHS Patients Awards Special

## BBC1, 7pm

As the NHS marks its 70th anniversary, The One Show, together with the Patients Association, pays its respects to the extraordinary people who keep it going day after day. Matt Baker and Alex Jones present a special edition honouring and celebrating the inspirational work of those staff who continually deliver outstanding care to patients and their families, as nominated by viewers. Categories include the Children's and Young People's Care Award, the Healthcare Award, the Nursing and Midwifery Award, the Unsung Hero Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

## The Bridge

## BBC2, 9pm

New series. The body of a woman is retrieved close to the bridge between Denmark and Sweden. It is found to be that of the Head of the Danish Immigration Board, whose staff had recently been filmed celebrating the success of a case deporting an Iranian homosexual who could face execution on his return.

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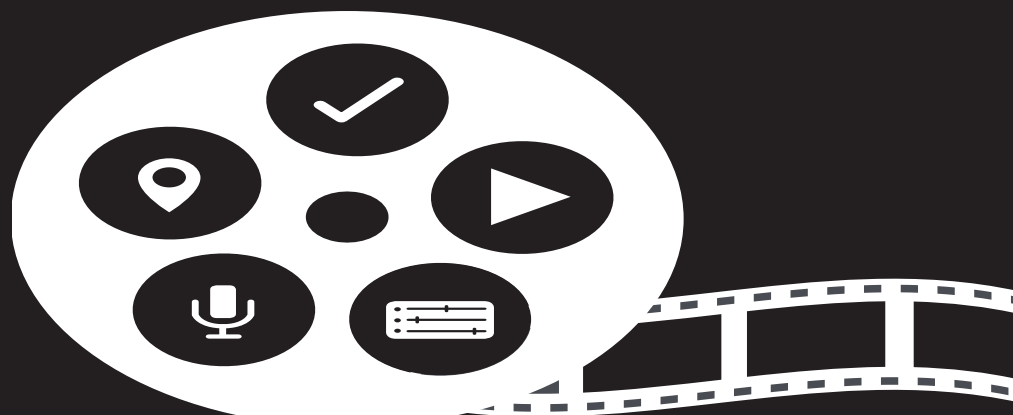
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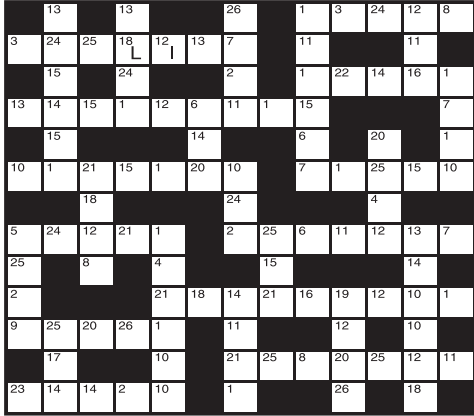


# BRAIN GYM

No.478

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	A	L	N	H	K	P	G	I	V	J	M	C	B
2	Q	O	F	D	E	W	T	S	U	Z	X	R	Y

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

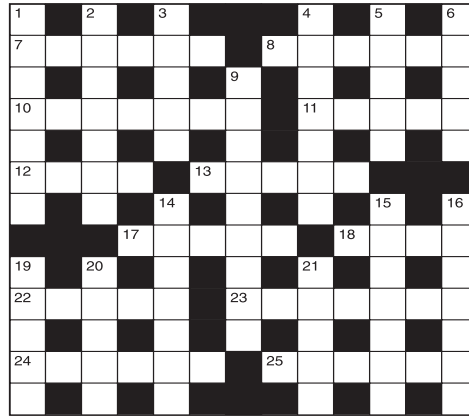
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

7. Areas for a walk on board (6)
8. Foreign office (6)
10. Under it changes are yet to be made (7)
11. Come gradually to the point? (5)
12. Cheese that's made the wrong way (4)
13. Sober way to help (5)
17. Their accounts cannot be relied upon (5)
18. Broken knee produces a plaintive cry (4)
22. I'm illuminated round the edge (5)
23. Caviare might produce such greed (7)
24. Empty one container into another (6)
25. A small-holder in the fruit trade (6)

#### Down

1. Puts it on without being told? (7)
2. Not wholly biased (7)
3. Memorial of old priest outwardly Roman Catholic (5)
4. Support us in shame (7)
5. Hurry up, they're hard to fathom (5)
6. Extravagant when out and about (5)
9. Leaders of newspapers (9)
14. Nowhere near cool enough (7)
15. Draughtsman's intentions? (7)
16. Discovers something new in airways? (7)
19. Being made to work (5)
20. A spanking vessel? (5)
21. Number get a fever that's ill-defined (5)



### Quick Clues:

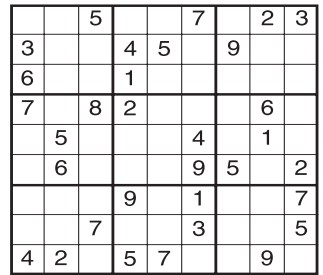
#### Across

7. Pick (6)
8. Bower (6)
10. Contain (7)
11. Boast (5)
12. Huge (4)
13. Scratch (5)
17. Hasten (5)
18. Solitary (4)
22. Slack (5)
23. Shorten (7)
24. Fix (6)
25. View (6)

#### Down

1. Accomplish (7)
2. Terse (7)
3. Outcome (5)
4. Courage (7)
5. Knave (5)
6. Banal (5)
9. Fickle (9)
14. Pacify (7)
15. Warrior (7)
16. Under (7)
19. Fissure (5)
20. Awaken (5)
21. Rely on (5)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	7	6	3	5	4	2	9	1
3	1	2	9	6	8	4	7	5
9	5	4	7	2	1	6	3	8
5	3	8	1	9	6	7	2	4
2	4	9	8	3	7	1	5	6
1	6	7	5	4	2	3	8	9
7	2	1	6	8	5	9	4	3
6	8	3	4	7	9	5	1	2
4	9	5	2	1	3	8	6	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Light; 4 Funeral; 8 Oration; 9 Monet; 10 Bede; 11 Clangour; 13 Mobs; 14 Stun; 16 Runner-up; 17 Draw; 20 Yacht; 21 Sleeper; 22 Useless; 23 Poles. Down: 1 Look before you; 2 Grand; 3 Trim; 4 Finale; 5 Nominate; 6 Rangoon; 7 Literary works; 12 Absentee; 13 Manacle; 15 Nurses; 18 Rape; 19 Leap.  
 QUICK - Across: 1 Greed; 4 Chamfer; 8 Ascribe; 9 Fling; 10 Dull; 11 Acquaint; 13 Mean; 14 Snag; 16 Quagmire; 17 Pass; 20 Elude; 21 Survive; 22 Treason; 23 Press. Down: 1 Grandiloquent; 2 Excel; 3 Dais; 4 Clench; 5 Affluent; 6 Failing; 7 Righteousness; 12 Harmless; 13 Measure; 15 Prison; 18 Agile; 19 Grip.

## Quiz

1. What is the Roman name for Odysseus?
2. Of which mountain range is Mount McKinley the highest?
3. Which John Travolta film won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1994?
4. What is the smallest US state?
5. Of which religion is a Parsee or Parsi a follower?
6. Which Brighton-based boxer once earned

- £10m in an eight-fight package with Sky TV?
7. Which race is the blue riband of the English horse-racing season?
8. Which film company merged with MGM in the '80s?
9. Which town in Greater Manchester includes Old Trafford cricket ground?
10. Which Hollywood star's first name is Eldred?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Pressure; 2 Diwali; 3 Castor and Pollux; 4 Navajo; 5 Under a judge; 6 Henley; 7 The Duchess of York; 8 Al Jolson; 9 Gerbil; 10 Apricot.

Niner: SOBRIQUET

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

741782  
87654928  
3732662

gives an element,  
gives a second element,  
gives a scientific instrument.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Tuck into feast from the Middle East

If you were to rank world cuisines on suitability for a first date then Lebanese would rank pretty low.

And that's not because it's a food that lacks sensuality. No, the problem with choosing a Lebanese restaurant for a first date is that you'll most certainly end up with a load of herbs in your teeth.

Eat a tabbouleh salad and smile afterwards at your peril; the likelihood of a second date will flash before your eyes. This salad isn't just heavy on parsley, it uses the grassy herb in Pavarotti-size proportions, only making way for a sprinkling of bulghur wheat, chopped tomatoes and spring onion.

Fattoush salads are pimped up with a garden's worth of parsley and mint, and let's not mention the cuisine's use of seeds. Jet black nigella seeds poke fun at diners with receding gums as they are liberally sprinkled on top of natural labné (strained yoghurt) while the ruby jewels of pomegranates are strewn on salads, stews and sauces.

## FORTUNATE

And so it was rather fortunate that when I visited the new Birmingham branch of Comptoir Libanais I was not on a first date. Or a second or third date. It's safe to say that after more than 16 years together, me and the other half are well into harmonious, herb-munching, couldn't care less about the consequences territory. We eat garlic with gusto, curries without caution and carry breath mints rarely. It's a happy time.

Happier even since Comptoir Libanais opened in Grand Central.

Interiors are a riot of colour and eccentricity. Walls, decorated in bright Moorish tiles, are adorned with quirky artworks and gold etched plates. Baklava is piled high in the entrance and there are staff lingering

The food of a nation – Lebanese mezze plates



outside, trying to entice customers into their cavernous lair.

Styled on a Beirut canteen, there's an open kitchen and the informal restaurant buzzes with noise, chatter and clatter of crockery.

The menu features hot and cold mezze plus wraps, salads and tagines as well as other Lebanese dishes such as roasted sea bass topped with spiced coriander, tomato and tahina sauce. The exotic ingredients – sumac, Damascus olives, tahini, labné, rose syrup, all made me wistful for far off lands. Let's run off to

Lebanon, I thought. Who says Lebanese food isn't romantic. As long as you don't mind herbs in your teeth, that is.

We chose the mezze platter for two featuring piles of falafels, grilled halloumi, tabbouleh and freekeh salads, pitta breads alongside pools of baba ghanouj and hummus. And a shed load of herbs.

We also ordered some lamb kibbeh, tasty lemon-shaped parcels of minced meat, cracked wheat, pine nuts and spices, and a piquant fattoush salad. It all looked as good as it tasted

Comptoir Libanais has opened in Grand Central



With 20 minutes to spare before we needed to dash off to the cinema we decided to risk ordering dessert, struggling to choose between the plate of baklava, the date-syrup topped frozen yoghurt and the chocolate, orange and cardamom tart. So we ordered all three but were left a bit disappointed.

Although we were allocated a waitress, service was chaotic. The bill came to just over £43 which included four Diet Cokes and service charge – all reasonably good value.

EMILY BRIDGEWATER

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# Vauxhall is offering greater versatility with Combo Life

By James Parker

Vauxhall has entered the leisure activity vehicle segment with the Combo Life.

Available in either five- or seven-seat configurations, the Combo Life comes fitted with sliding doors designed to make it a practical option for larger families.

The rearmost seats are individual units too, and their design means that even those in the back have enough room to stretch out.

A variety of safety features have also been fitted to the Combo Life, with systems such as driver drowsiness alert, a head-up display and forward collision alert with pedestrian detection helping contribute to a safe overall driving experience.

It also comes with autonomous emergency braking fitted as standard.

Flank Guard, a new collision detection system fitted to the Combo Life, uses 12 sensors to monitor the extremities of the car. Should it detect that the vehicle is about to hit an obstacle, it will warn the driver via the main infotainment screen.

In addition, the Combo Life benefits from Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems for better smartphone integration, controlled via a central colour touchscreen.

The Combo Life will be offered with one of a



Entering the leisure sector

number of turbocharged petrol and diesel engines – though Vauxhall has yet to specify the exact list of units powering the car. All will be available with either a five- or six-speed manual gearbox, or an eight-speed automatic.

Thanks to a standard overall length of 4.4 metres – or 4.75 metres in the extended version – the Combo Life has a minimum 597 litres of boot storage, rising to 850 litres in the long wheelbase variant.

However, this rises to 2,126 litres in the regular Combo Life with the rear seats folded flat, or 2,693 in the longer model.

The Vauxhall Combo Life is predicted to arrive in showrooms later in the year, with full prices and specifications predicted to be announced a few months before it does so.



Full prices and specifications are predicted to be announced shortly



The Combo Life is predicted to arrive in showrooms later in the year

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# Top awards for Nissan Leaf and Micra

By James Parker

**The European New Car Assessment Programme awarded the new Nissan Leaf with a stellar 5-star rating just a short time after the Nissan Micra won a major award.**

The Leaf is the first car to be assessed against Euro NCAP's improved and extended protocols for 2018. The 2018 protocol sees the introduction of a raft of new tests which address key crash scenarios involving cars, pedestrians and now also the growing number of cyclists.

In these Euro NCAP tests, the Leaf earned a 93 per cent rating for adult safety and an 86 per cent rating for child protection. The safety rating is determined from a series of vehicle tests that, in a simplified way, reflect important real-life accident scenarios that could result in injuries.

## Technology

The new Leaf 5-star rating reflects the advanced driver assistance systems packaged on the car. Technologies such as camera and radar feature extensively to provide benefits such as pedestrian recognition and form the basis of Nissan's acclaimed ProPILOT system for safer, more confident driving.

Gareth Dunsmore, electric vehicle director, Nissan Europe, explained: "The Euro NCAP announcement proves what we have known for a long time – that the new Nissan Leaf has exceptional safety standards and is a true pioneer in the EV space.

"This shows that our customers can fully trust our Nissan Intelligent Mobility vision, we



Winner of the Car of the Year accolade at the inaugural 2018 Firstcar awards, the Micra

are on a path to transform the way we drive and the way we live."

The announcement has been released just months after the Japan New Car Assessment Program also awarded the car the top 5-star grade following rigorous testing.

In earning the top rating, the Leaf scored 94.8 points out of a possible 100 for occupant safety in a collision.

The program is organized by Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the National Agency for Automotive Safety and Victims' Aid. More details on that announcement can be found here.

The Nissan Micra has won the 'Car of the Year' accolade at the inaugural 2018 FirstCar awards. Micra has historically been a popular choice of car for learner and first time drivers due to its affordable pricing and compact practicality.

The Nissan Micra is packed with technology and powered by a range of efficient and responsive engines to inspire a confident and fun drive, making it a great choice for anyone starting their driving career.

FirstCar aims to encourage learner drivers while they prepare for their driving test and supports young drivers to make informed decisions after they gain their licence. With road-safety education at the forefront of the agenda for FirstCar, Micra delivers plenty of safety equipment and driver aids such as Intelligent Emergency Braking with pedestrian recognition, Intelligent Lane Intervention, Lane Departure Warning and High Beam Assist as standard.

David Motton, FirstCar editor and chairman of the judging panel, said: "You couldn't want for a better first car than the Micra.

"With low insurance group ratings and a range of efficient engines, the Nissan is



The new Nissan Leaf achieved a 5-star rating in NCAP awards

affordable to run. It's also equipped with the kind of safety features you'd expect of a much bigger and more expensive car.

"It's not just a safe and sensible choice. With a huge range of interior and exterior finishes, new drivers can really express themselves when specifying the car."

Alex Smith, managing director of Nissan GB, commented: "The Micra clearly ticks plenty of boxes for learner and young drivers. With advanced driver assistance systems as standard, over 100 personalisation

combinations, the unique BOSE Personal sound system and low tax and fuel costs, it's clear why Micra has been and will continue to be a logical and fun choice for younger drivers."

With emissions as low as 85g/km, fuel economy of up to 88.3 mpg and prices starting from just £12,400, the new Nissan Micra is unsurprisingly popular with younger drivers and represents a perfect balance of urban performance and low running costs.

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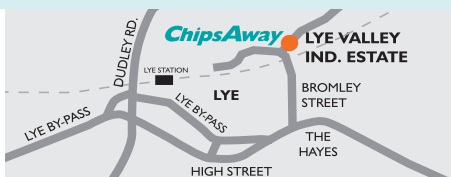
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## Comfort is the new cool for Citroën's latest C4 Cactus



The film 'The Mug' showcases the busy morning routine of a father and his family

**Citroën has revealed a new advertising campaign for the recently launched new C4 Cactus, the ultra-comfortable hatchback.**

The campaign is inspired by people and their increasingly busy lives. The advert highlights all the benefits of Citroën's new suspension technology with Progressive Hydraulic Cushions™ (PHC™), which makes its European debut on the new C4 Cactus.

The film 'The Mug' showcases the busy morning routine of a father and his family.

Eating breakfast, dropping the children off at school and going to

work. Caught up in the morning rush, the father forgets his coffee on the roof of the car.

Due to the exceptional performance of Citroën's suspension with PHC™, the mug remains on the roof for his entire commute, which he then retrieves before rushing into the office.

This campaign demonstrates the brand's 'Inspired By You' positioning, because 'Citroën knows that life is hectic enough'.

Benefitting from the Citroën Advanced Comfort® programme, the new C4 Cactus is the first car

in the range with all of the Citroën Advanced Comfort® features. The ultra-comfortable hatch is the first model in Europe to feature Citroën's suspension with Progressive Hydraulic Cushions™, which creates a 'flying carpet' effect. It is also the first model in the world to offer Advanced Comfort® seats featuring new high-density foam that improves seating comfort for both the driver and passengers. There are 12 driver assistance systems and three connectivity technologies available as well as a wide range of efficient engines.

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**BURNHAM-ON-SEA** Self Catering Holiday Apartments Disabled Facilities Pet Friendly **01278 794111** [www.GoSomerset.co.uk](http://www.GoSomerset.co.uk)

### Travel Abroad

**READERS ARE REMINDED** to check with any Advertiser that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

### Music Shop

### CONCERTINA WANTED

By Musician. Please call 01902 742937.

### Sports & Leisure

## Free Ads

**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY** To sell items upto £250. Online at [bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

## what's on

### Antique Fairs

**ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR** CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT **FRIDAY 11TH MAY** 8:30 AM - 3 PM 07783 680 627 **FREE ADMISSION**

## 3 Home & Services

### Antiques

**WANTED** Old Breitling, Omega, Rolex, IWC, Jaeger, Tudor wrist watches from 1920's onwards, by collector. Even not working. 07958 333442.

## Furniture

**LEATHER SUITE** Three seater, two single seaters, hardly used, house move forces sale. £400. 07534 634880.

**UPHOLSTERED SETTEE** three seater, two single seaters, hardly used, house move forces sale. £500. 07534 634880.

### Household Appliances

**ONE UPRIGHT** Larder fridge, as new, for £300. 07534 634880.

### In Your Garden

**A LANDSCAPING & GARDEN SERVICE** Regular Mowing and Garden Maintenance. Tidy-ups. Jungles cleared and restored. New lawns laid. Fencing and Paving. **01902 663607 or 07939 634708**

**CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD** Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Treated Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings. Super Quality/Competitive Prices Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available **Unit 17, Oak Street, Quarry Bank DY5 2JH** 01384 913422/01384 569779 [www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk](http://www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk)

### Items For Sale

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED** That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**CORRUGATED GALVANISED** Sheets. New, 28 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

**KITCHEN AID MIXER** Good condition plus ice cream mixer, never used £200. 01902 827074.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

### Items Wanted

**A BEST CASH PRICE** FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS Any gauge or age Hornby/Bachmann/Bowman/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On. 01384 836219/07891 713547 [thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com](mailto:thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com)



**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID** FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint and Mamod Engines. Best prices paid. Any condition. Collections bought. Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

**OLD VICTORIAN CAST IRON BATH** with large upright shower canopy wanted. Also decorated Victorian toilet and wash basin. All considered. 07958 333442.

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

## Loans

**READERS ARE REMINDED** that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

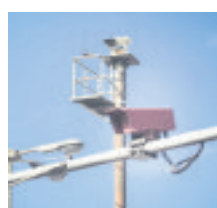
## t.v. / home entertainment

### Service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST** Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras, TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

### Service

## CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

## specialists at your service

### Aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS** **AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99** 01902 858191 • 01384 429166 01543 439095 • 01922 716029

**A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST** Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

## CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

## Alarms/Security

## PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

### Building Services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
All Building & Roofing Work  
Driveways, Landscaping  
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed  
Free Quotes: 07837 994465  
01902 579 592

### Electrical Services

**STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL**  
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

### Fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
**SPECIAL OFFER**  
10 Boys of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4:30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

## CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

### Gardening Services

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

### Gas Fitting

**READERS ARE ADVISED** To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

### House Clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

**ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED**  
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE  
**01384 486456 / 07711661135**

### Painters/ Decorators

**LOVE 2 WALLPAPER**  
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painters & Decorators  
Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken  
01384 287577 or 07812 484194  
[www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk](http://www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk)

### Removals

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs, 07429 453209/ 01502 830870 / 01384 940280

**CALL IAN.** Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

## KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away. Please call: **07966 281957**

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience. **SHIRLEY TRAFFORD TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.** Free Quotes - Call Ric on: **07771 727119**

### Roofing

**MG ROOFING**  
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449. [www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk](http://www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk)

### Rubbish Removal

**LET'S TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

### Skip Hire

**BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!** No Skips, we load, fast friendly service. 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR. Est 40 years, 01384 232359.

## 4 Pets & Animals

### Equestrian Corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

### Pets Corner

**NOTICE TO READERS** Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst the Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**CAVAPOO PUPPIES** available, ready now, health checked. 01630 638369. 07969 116805.

## GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped. Call 01902 291080 or visit [www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk](http://www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk)  
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton @gtwolverhampton

### Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS** Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

## 5 Business & Farming

### Business Opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

## BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

**01902 317878**



## Classified Ads

## 6 Property

### Accommodation To Let

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS** Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

### Overseas Property

**NOTICE TO READERS** Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.



### THREE BED HOUSE

In the country.  
In Normandy.  
Approx two acres.  
£147,000  
Cash Buyers Only  
Phone 07552 976181.

**Properties Wanted**

# FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

**CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!**

**FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007** **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

[www.oakwood-homebuyers.com](http://www.oakwood-homebuyers.com)

## Yes! HOMEBUYERS

### We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!  
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!  
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!  
**FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!**

**Call 01562 277 067**

or text "Cash" to 66777  
[yeshomebuyers.com](mailto:yeshomebuyers.com)

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**

## Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

**Ring Road 24/7 Local 07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

[www.homecashbuyer.co.uk](http://www.homecashbuyer.co.uk)

## 7 Jobs

### Employment Wanted

**EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER**  
requires employment, any type of brickwork. 07341 021774.  
**HII I AM** looking for a job for office cleaning. If you need a cleaner please call me on 07900 037685.

### Employment Wanted

**RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER**  
Requires casual / part time work.  
Own van / tools.  
**Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.**

**SEMI RETIRED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FCA**  
Seeks part time / accountancy / bookkeeping.  
Halesowen and surrounding areas.  
**07860 357143.**

### Full Time General

### MNA Media

## DISTRIBUTION & LEAFLET SALES ASSISTANT

MNA Media are looking for a Distribution & Leaflet Sales Assistant to join our Xpress Distribution team based at Wolverhampton.

The purpose of this role is to assist in the free distribution operation of all free printed MNA titles, including leaflet sales, to maximise all revenue and sales opportunities. The role will also ensure the effective organisation and administration, through third party distributors, of all free letterbox distribution activity, in line with current ABC rules. Additionally, there is a focus on continually exploiting new opportunities and exploring new markets.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant must possess a full current driving licence as travel to customer sites is required, a company car will be provided. As this is a customer facing role excellent communication and customer service skills are required. A good working knowledge of all Microsoft products is essential.

The position is full time, 37.5 hours per week, working Monday-Friday.

If you would like to be considered for this role please send your CV and covering letter to:

HR Department, Midland News Association, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Or by e-mail to: [hr@mnamedia.co.uk](mailto:hr@mnamedia.co.uk)

Closing date: 7th May 2018.

Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

Express & Star STAR



### FORD B-MAX

Limited Edition, 16 plate, 1388 engine, 10,000 miles, silver metallic, black roof, black alloys, petrol, blue tooth, radio / CD, aircon, front fog lights, electric window, sliding back doors, immaculate condition.

£8,200

07788 684373.

### FOR A QUICK SALE

### FORD FUSION 1.4 PETROL

2006, metallic blue, long MoT, fsh, alloy wheels, very low mileage 8,400,

electric mirrors / electric front windows, PAS.

Excellent condition,

Reduced for quick sale

£4,000 ono.

07792 163719.

### MUST BE SEEN

### JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 DIESEL

Classic saloon, November 2005, manual, MoT February 2019, 47,400 miles, very economical, alloy wheels, very good condition.

£2,595 o.n.o.

01384 291853.

### Cars Under £1500

### BARGAIN

### CITROEN C3 DESIRE HDI

06, 5dr hatchback, diesel car 1.4, good clean car inside and out, mileage 129,000 miles, MoT to October 2018.

Any trial welcome.

£875. o.n.o.

01902 653442.

### BARGAIN

### FORD FUSION 3 1600 PETROL

52 reg., alloys, MoT till January 2019, good runner and condition.

£600 ono

07470 511649.

### LOW MILEAGE

### FORD KA

02 reg, good condition, good runner, 42,000 miles, many extras,

£350.

07390 515087.

### BARGAIN

### FORD KA

06, 12 months MoT, no advisories, good all round condition and good runner.

£550 ono

01384 251328 / 07972 169554.



### HONDA ACCORD 1.8

V reg., 1999.

Spares or repair.

Mechanically sound.

New clutch, tyres, good condition, MoT August 2018.

Ignition problems,

£250 ono.

07908 546053.



### MITSUBISHI GALANT

1998, 85,000 miles, blue, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, alloys, CD, immaculate condition.

£850 ono.

07547 360146.

### BARGAIN

### PEUGEOT 206

2004, 12 months MoT, two door, 77,000 miles, MoT June,

£600 ono.

07903 001517 or 07375 624574.

### GOOD RUNNER

### PEUGEOT 307 CONVERTIBLE

Silver, black leather, long MoT, just serviced, used daily, 2 keys, needs some TLC, Ready for summer. Bargain £975 ono. 07879 642334.

### LOOK

### RENAULT MODUS

four door car,

2004, 9 months MoT,

very good condition,

1461cc, diesel.

£425 ono.

01952 764362

or

07913 408691.

### BARGAIN

### ROVER 75 CLUB

2003.

66k miles.

MoT.

Silver.

Good mechanics.

£695 ono.

01902 745382.

### RARE CAR

### VAUXHALL ASTRA BERTONE

COUPE 2.2 AUTO 54 plate, 31,700 miles, silver, fsh, MoT Sept, £1,200.

01902 894337 or 01746 761861.



### VAUXHALL CORSA B

T Reg., one owner from new, FSH, 12 months MoT.

First to see will buy.

£695.

07913 981460.

### LOW MILEAGE

### VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE

1.4, 07 reg, bright silver, 66,000 miles, full MoT, CD, electric windows, 5-dr, very clean car.

Runs and drives as it should.

£1,375 ono.

07961 669911.

### Classic Cars



### LEXUS 400LS

1994 Gold badge model, two owners, main dealer service history, full MoT, excellent, built as Japanese Rolls Royce, an absolute joy.

£2,450

01902 844362

07503 186002.

### Commercial Vehicles

### BARGAIN

### VAUXHALL COMBO VAN

1700 CDTi, 57 reg, diesel, MoT till February 2019, good runner and condition.

£1,250

07470 511649.

### Scrap Vehicles

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

### Vehicles Wanted

## CROWN MOTORS

Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans  
**07903 549849**  
buyer will call

### STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED) ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

### DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC CRAB LANE, BOBBINGTON

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Crab Lane in Bobbington from its junction with Gospel Ash Road to its junction with Watery Lane unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

An alternative route for traffic is available via Gospel Ash Road, Halfpenny Green Lane, Six Ashes Road, Crab Lane and vice versa. For more information, visit: <https://roadworks.org?tm=105188257>

The order will come into operation on 21st May 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date, taking place daily between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 22nd May 2018 at 15.30 hrs.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the BT Openreach works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: 4110299; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre;

Tel: 0300 111 8000

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders)

<http://roadworks.org>

Date: 4th May 2018

### alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash  
Top prices paid. HP settled.  
Buyer could call.

**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

### spares & accessories

### Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

### A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!! Ring for quotes

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

01384 251328

07972 169554

anytime

## 9 Local Information

### Personal

### A GOOD LOOKING BRITISH INDIAN MAN

Looking to meet single lady (any nationality) for holidays, nights in/out and general company.

Genuine replies only. All replies answered. Box Number P21167, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

### PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 319694 or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk) (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

### Licensing Act 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE

An application for a new premises licence has been made by Envile Ales Limited to South Staffordshire District Council in respect of premises to be known as Envile Ales Limited, Hollies Lane, Cox Green Envile, Stourbridge, Staffordshire.

The application is as follows;

1. To enable the retail sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0900-1900 hours.

2. Premises open to the public every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0900-1900 hours.

Any representation by responsible authorities or any other person regarding the application must be made in writing to The Licensing Officer, South Staffordshire District Council, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, Staffordshire WV8 1PX by the 25th May 2018.

Persons wishing to view the application may do so by contacting the licensing unit on 01902 696250 email: [licensing@staffs.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@staffs.gov.uk)

It is an offence liable on summary conviction of a fine up to level 5 (£5,000) on the standard scale to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

Dated: 27th April 2018

## 10 Personals

### Personal

GENUINE, ATTRACTIVE, SLIM MAN 55.

Caring. GSOF.

Car owner. Solvent.

WLTm Genuine lady 40-60 for evenings, days out and friendship.

Box Number P21162, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

### WEALTHY GENT 60's

Own house and car.

WLTm lady 50-70 for friendship / relationship.

Maybe long term.

Likes all usual social activities and much more.

Box Number P21168, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

### YOUNG AT HEART LADY 58

Many interests, meals out, country pubs and walks WLTm non smoking genuine gentleman aged 56 - 66 for evenings and days out, for friendship and possible relationship.

Box Number P21170, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

### Sports Clubs



APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE WOLVERHAMPTON AND DISTRICT SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE ARE NOW OPEN

We are also looking for teams for a new Veterans division and new Ladies division.

For further details please contact League Secretary Phil Reade 07930 561837.



Colin Brazier and Mel Eves sign shirts



Ex-boss Graham Turner with former players Robbie Dennison and Andy Thompson



Chairman of the Former Players' Association Richard Green



Phil Parkes, Willie Carr and Steve Kindon meet up again



Dave Jones and Graham Turner with host Sky Sports presenter Johnny Phillips

# Former star Eves: Wolves golden days here again

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Spiers

*"It is really heart-warming to see as a Wolves fan that we are back in the Premier League."*

**WOLVES legend Mel Eves says this season has been 'one of the best' in recent years after the club won the Championship title and promotion to the Premier League.**

The former striker, who netted 44 league goals for the club during a nine-year spell in which he played 180 games, declared the football under Nuno Espirito Santo a joy to watch this season.

Wolves were crowned the Championship winners after thrashing Bolton 4-0.

Eves spoke during the 30th anniversary dinner of the Wolves Former Players' Association at Molineux on April 19.

### Shrewd

Eves, who later represented the likes of Sheffield United and Gillingham, said: "It has been an absolute joy this season to watch the football on show.

"It has been one of the best seasons that I think most people can remember, certainly since the team were doing really well.

"Under Mick McCarthy we did well but we were really surviving. We weren't expected to do nothing more than be OK.

"The Fosun group, they mean business. But you also have to be very shrewd in the players that you bring in, the manager you bring in, and the way you



Kenny Hibbitt, Derek Parkin and Norman Bell at the 30th anniversary dinner

integrate everything and get everyone singing off the same hymn sheet.

"From the original 1950s team, Wolves were the best in Europe let alone this country.

"That is why Wolves have got their heritage and why older guys, like me and generations gone by, appreciate Wolves are a big club.

"Make no mistake about it, they are a big club.

"It is really heart-warming to see as a Wolves fan that we are back in the Premier League.

"Congratulations to everyone involved at Wolves from the top down.

"The manager Nuno, the fans love him, everyone loves him."

Former Wolves players turned out in force for the special event.

Among them was former defender Jody Craddock, an artist who has painted portraits of the current

players, which have been used on the covers of match day programmes.

Craddock said: "It is brilliant to come along. I enjoy catching up with all the old players

"It has been a tremendous season and we have played some superb football.

"It is nice to be involved in such a fantastic season. When I started (my artwork) I didn't realise we would get promoted but it has worked out fantastic. To be asked to do it is an honour.

"That will be part of history now forever. It is nice for me as an artist and an ex-player."

Former goalkeeper Phil Parkes said: "It is great to be here, all the lads get back together.

"It has been a different type of football this past season.

"What the club have done this season has been fantastic."

## Coady: Players will miss Premier derby

WOLVES captain Conor Coady says winning the Championship is 'the best feeling in the world' - but admits he would miss the atmosphere of a derby should no West Midlands rivals join them in the Premier League.

The 25-year-old admits the players are 'a little bit disappointed' there would be no Black Country derby if the Baggies are relegated.

Coady, speaking as a guest of BBC Radio Merseyside in his home city of Liverpool, said: "It's the best feeling in the world (to be champions), to get promoted that weekend. But to beat Bolton 4-0 knowing we'd already been promoted, and the performance the boys put in just shows the character they've got."

But he added he would have loved to take on Black Country rivals Albion. "You want to play West Brom, as a Wolves player, as a Wolves fan," he said. "They all want to play West Brom, we really do.

"We want to play them and experience that atmosphere because we all know what it can be like."

## Heart rules head to keep Heathens racing

CRADLEY Heathens bosses have revealed how they let the heart rule the head to keep the club in action this season.

Club director Nigel Pearson told a packed fans forum organised by the Heathens Supporters Trust how they were within a whisker of closing last October after eight seasons at National League level.

No new home track, fewer dates available at Wolverhampton and financial losses when staging home meetings at Birmingham left the club in crisis. But Pearson said: "My head told me to close the club and I think the same applied to my colleagues. However, the heart told me different.

"We still have a loyal fanbase and fantastic support from Dean and Adam Bridge at Motor Market, plus the tremendous partnership with Dr Rod Brooks. The last three seasons have been tough, the fact is when we have to host meetings away from Monmore it doesn't work financially."

Pearson also answered fans' questions on the long term and whether the management were still committed to a new track.

## Footballers hoping to score with charity

TWO brothers hope a five-a-side football tournament will prove a winner for charity. Gurcharan and Herjinder Bhujhangy, of Halesowen, are organising the tournament in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

It takes place at Goals, Cakemore Road, Blackheath, on Saturday, June 3.

Teams can enter a maximum of seven players per team, with adult teams costing £70 and children's teams at £30. Register at Goals on 0121 561 3000 or via Gurcharan on 07762 521584 before May 21.

This is the third time the brothers have organised the annual event for the BHF. The fundraising total for 2017 was £1,075. They originally supported the BHF as a result of losing their father Dalbir Khanpur Bhujhangy, aged 59, as a result of heart failure in November 2008. He was part of the legendary Bhujhangy bhangra group, formed in Smethwick in 1967. Tragically, the brothers have since also lost a friend, Harman Dhani, 37.

Gurcharan said: "This football tournament is a tribute to these two great men."



## Blue hoops team takes on Masters

DUDLEY Kingswinford athletes rubbed shoulders, at least on the start line, with some top quality runners from the older age groups, taking part in the British National Masters Road Relays Championships at Sutton Park, restricted to athletes aged over 35.

Teams from all over the country were looking to claim national medals. The blue hoops fielded two men's teams and were off the blocks just after noon in the M55 category with a team of three covering the 5k course. Mark Homer was first away, coming home in 19th place in 20.23. Graham Wildgoose finished in 22.14 putting the club in 20th. Pete Hood made up three places bringing the club home in 21.05 and a final finishing position of 17th and an overall time of 1.03.42 behind medallists South London Harriers, Herne Hill and Cambuslang.

Although the club had entered a complete M35s team, with some having to run down an age group to make up the numbers, a couple of late drop outs due to illness and injury meant the club could only field four runners where six were required. Dave Norman led the team off, running 19.10 over the 5k course placing the club in 31st position.

Darran Bishop maintained their position in 19.33, Steve Parr again placed the club in 31st, in 21.49 and John Andrews completed DK's incomplete team, dropping to 33rd, in 25.55. Without a fifth and sixth runner they were left to watch the final two legs with Salford Harriers claiming victory from Thames Hare & Hounds and Tipton Harriers.

## Victories for chess club as campaign draws to a close

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club played two matches as the season comes to an end. Both were on Wednesday in the Worcester and District League.

The division 1 team hosted Malvern with wins for Richard Wilkinson and Hossam Aboushady along with a draw for Julie Wilson giving a win to Stourbridge by 2½ - 1½. This win has handed Redditch the title. Stourbridge are fourth in the five-team division, with one match remaining against the champions.

The division 2 team travelled to Kidderminster. A draw for Jeremy Humphreys and wins for Colin Woodall and Joe Bombardini gave Stourbridge another 2½ - 1½ win.

There are still a few matches to be played in this division. Stourbridge might have one more match to play, depending on what happens with the match claimed by default when their opponents did not turn up.

Anyone who is interested in joining Stourbridge chess club should contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit [www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk) for more information.

## Emotional tribute to young player

Stourbridge 31 Otley 5

THERE were mixed feelings on Saturday as Stourbridge saw off Otley in a game preceded by an emotional tribute to Tom Mole, the under-14s star who died on Thursday following a short illness.

Parents, family and team-mates gathered at Stourton Park for a minute's applause to celebrate a young man whose short life had such an impact on all who knew him.

The game itself saw Stourbridge secure a top five spot, although neither Stour, nor the referee



Minute's applause for Tom Mole

helped to enhance the entertainment factor in a game punctuated by stoppages for numerous penalty infringements. DoR Player of the season

Jack Lea scored the first try, with Chad Thorne touching down for the second.

Nick Murphy saw the first yellow card of the day. Then, early in the second half George Morgan spent 10 minutes in the bin.

Otley responded with a try from hooker Ben Steele, but Phil Bowden touched down for Stour and Rod Petty added the extras.

Veteran Leinster star Rob Conolly was next on the scoresheet, with Petty again converting. Flanker Sam Montieri galloped clear for the final score and Petty converted.

# LEON TAKES THE HONOURS

GLASSBOYS' veteran Leon Broadhurst swept the boards at Stourbridge FC's end of season presentation.

The long-serving midfielder, who has notched up 730 games in Glassboys colours, was the club's top scorer with 19 goals, and at Saturday's ceremony, which followed a 2-1 win over play-off hopefuls Warrington, Broadhurst took home a clutch of awards.

He was named Players' Player of the Year; Manager's Player of the Year; the Committee/Directors Player of the Year (in memory of Alan Pitt); Supporters' Player of the Year and also picked up the award for most 'Man of the Match' wins (in memory of Steve Hickman). Karl Clifton won the 'Clubman of the Year' award for his efforts behind the scenes.



Leon Broadhurst

### Costly

Meanwhile, boss Gary Hackett was left to rue a number of costly late goals over the season as Glassboys finished 12th in the Evo-Stik Premier, although they could still lift the Birmingham Senior Cup. They take on Hednesford Town in the final at St Andrew's next Tuesday.

Hackett said: "If we hadn't conceded those goals we would probably be looking at 10 or 15 points more and we would have been around the play-offs."

On Saturday, Stourbridge came from behind after Joseph Piggot's opener to win with goals from Broadhurst and Luke Benbow.

Former Walsall defender Darryl Westlake and youth team captain Jake Evans have signed new contracts for 2018/19.

Westlake, 27, is just four shy of a century of games for Glassboys. Evans has progressed to make five first-team appearances off the bench.

## Lions roar to cup triumph



Sedgley White Lion under-9s have won the league cup for their group

A JUNIOR football team has continued to beat the odds, being crowned league cup champions of their group in the Stourbridge & District Youth League.

Sedgley White Lion under-9s will be presented with their trophy in June.

However, at the start of the season, the players were without a pitch when Wolverhampton Council refused permission to use Bantock Park. Woodfield School agreed to accommodate the side and immediate success followed.

They made such an impact that bosses were forced to reshuffle the league mid-season, with the Lions moving up from the fifth to the first division.

Last weekend the league cup was secured and a club spokesman said: "The boys have made such an achievement in their very successful eight months together as a team."

"All of the parents are extremely proud of the hard work the boys and their coaches Paul Shields and Paul Timmins have put in."

## Yeltz defeat strugglers in final game

HALESOWEN eased to a two-goal victory as the two sides immediately above the bottom met in the final game of a difficult season.

The weary visitors had played nine games in the previous fortnight as Steve Burr ended his reign as Celtic manager with another defeat.

Halesowen had the better of the first half but were unable to break the deadlock. Lee Hughes laid the ball off for Dan Byrnes but his 11th minute shot was deflected away. Young goalkeeper Aiden Winterbottom flapped at the resulting corner from Jack Kelly, but his defence was able to tidy up.

Midway through the first half Hughes cut in from the left but this time Winterbottom gathered cleanly.

Little was seen from Celtic, who struggled at set-pieces.

Yeltz went close from two further corners late in the first half. Jordan Goddard's 35th minute delivery was helped on to Hughes, but Harrison Holgate headed off the line. Four minutes later another Goddard corner was headed on by Kyle Morrison for Hughes to head into the side-netting.

After a slow start to the second period, Hughes was penalised after handling the ball into the net. Ahmed Ali stroked just wide from the edge of the area a minute later.

The Yeltz finally grabbed a 57th minute lead when the ball was knocked back for super-sub Roland Agbor to find the bottom corner. Ali powered a 67th minute header home directly from Kelly's corner to make it 2-0.

## Heathens off but now back on track

CRADLEY Heathens are back in action next week.

The Heathens race against Stoke Poters in the National Trophy at Monmore Green, on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, at 7.30pm.

It is the side's first meeting of the season after Sunday's National Trophy fixture against Coventry at Leicester was postponed due to a waterlogged track.

A new date for the fixture is to be confirmed.

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